Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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4 fires wipe out acres of vegetation

Members of a Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services team walk past acres of vegetation that were wiped out by brush fire that occurred in San Juan, Marpi over the weekend. DFEMS

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three brush fires in different spots occurred on Saipan over the weekend, destroying acres of vegetation, while another brush fire broke on Rota yesterday. No one was reported injured in all four fires.

On Saipan, a brush fire that occurred north of Wireless Ridge on Capital Hill last Friday night broke into two separate fires as it moved toward San Juan in Marpi. Another brush fire also struck in Chinatown on Saturday afternoon but was immediately extinguished.

On Rota, brush fire wiped out veg-

See FIRES on Page 4

'BEH to inspect Guma Hustisia for mold'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Bureau of Environmental Health is expected to inspect the Guma Hustisia building in Susupe for mold today, Monday, according to a source.

This developed as the Guma Hustitisia or the House of Justice building will remain closed to the public today, Monday, reportedly due to air-conditioning system failure. Court hearings and other public services are being done in alternative locations.

The source, who requested anonymity, said BEH personnel will bring test kits and other tools needed for the inspection.

The source said the same BEH personnel made an initial visit at Guma Hustisia last week. The bureau is a branch of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

With the Guma Hustisia closed to the public since last March 16,

See BEH on Page 4

FHWA: Unspent funds, low expenditure justifies status quo

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A recent Federal Highway Administration letter explaining to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) why the CNMI and American Samoa funding allocations have remained stagnant since 1992 said it is mainly due to unobligated funds and low expenditure rates compared to the other territories.

That's what Sablan got in response after he and Delegate Aumua Amata C. Radewagen (R-AS) asked FHWA acting administrator Brandye Hendrickson about this in a letter dated Jan. 31, 2018. They had asked why their territories were

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RELATED NEWS
DPW: Kilili does not understand... PAGE 6

Saipan holds first Mom-and-Me night

Dozens of mothers and daughters showed up to the island's first Mom-and-Me night organized by the Youth Affairs Office last Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Several pairs of mothers and their daughters joined the first ever Mom-and-Me night last Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center that fostered not just shared activities but also eye-opening discussions.

Women of all ages, along with their mothers, took part in the island's first Mom-and-Me Night organized by the Youth Affairs Office—a one-night only event intended to strengthen the bond between mother and daughter.

Throughout the event, mothers and their daughter (or daughter and their

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The Northern Marianas College is inviting vendors to take part in its Charter Day celebration.
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Thousands rally across the United States for tougher laws to fight gun violence.
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LIFE & STYLE
The plaid couch is a giveaway that ABC's "Roseanne" revival hasn't ditched its roots.
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Local

'NMI food stamp money not getting to families in need'

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Commonwealth government is sitting on $22.5 million that should be going to families in the Marianas who need help putting food on the table. That is the report to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) from the U.S. Department of Agriculture this week.

"I added $32.5 million to the 2014 Agricultural Act for the Marianas food stamp program—above and beyond our $12 million annual block grant," Sablan said. "But instead of spending that money to help the elderly, children, and families who do not have enough food, the Commonwealth government is just sitting on $22.5 million. How do you explain that failure to the people here in the Marianas we are supposed to be helping?"

The backlog of unspent funds from the 2014 law also makes it next to impossible to get more money to extend the special Marianas program, Sablan added.

"The next farm bill is being written right now. It will cover the next five years and we will be left behind," said Sablan. "In Congress, you cannot get more money, when you are not spending what you already have."

The $18.4 million of the unspent funds are from the pilot program that Sablan put into the 2014 Agricultural Act, when he was a member of the Agriculture Committee.

In addition, the Commonwealth government has failed to spend $4.1 million from its annual block grant, according to the Department of Agriculture.

"How do you explain to other members of Congress that not only are we not spending the extra money I got in 2014, but we are not even spending all of our regular annual grant?" Sablan asked.

"The Republican majority and President Trump are eager to cut food stamps nationwide.

"The Commonwealth's failure to spend looks like CNMI officials agree with the Republican position that food stamps are not that important. They are saying cut the program."

Long-time goal

Sablan is a long-time champion of increased food aid for Marianas families. He got the annual block grant increased from $10 million per year to $12 million, and then persuaded the Agriculture Department to allow higher benefits on Rota and Tinian, where food costs more.

His ultimate goal is inclusion of the Marianas in the national Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. The extra federal funds, spent in the Marianas, would boost the economy and create jobs.

More families would get help and benefits would be higher.

Unlike Guam, which is part of SNAP, the Commonwealth makes its own decisions about how much a Marianas family can earn and still qualify for help.

A family of four has to earn less than $17,412 to be eligible in the Marianas.

In Guam, a family of four can earn almost twice as much, $31,980 and still get food stamps.

The Commonwealth government also sets monthly benefit levels lower than Guam.

The pilot program that Sablan included in the 2014 Agricultural Act was intended to close this gap and be a stepping stone to get the Marianas into SNAP. But in its report to Sablan, the Agriculture Department projects the extra pilot program funding may not be used up until 2024—six years from now.

The Commonwealth's failure to use its extra funding threatens Sablan's goal of being included in SNAP.

"We always say we want the same level of federal assistance as the rest of the American political family," Sablan said. "Then we get the help and do not use it." ***(PR)***

Income eligibility Standards

Household Size	Guam	Marianas
1	$1,307	$841
2	$1,760	$1,045
3	$2,213	$1,252
4	$2,665	$1,451
5	$3,118	$1,656
6	$3,571	$1,861
7	$4,024	$2,071
8	$4,477	$2,267

In Guam families can earn almost twice as much and still get food assistance. The CNMI sets income thresholds much lower.

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2 earthquakes near Pagan, Agrihan

A 4.5-magnitude earthquake occurred near Pagan last Wednesday, while a 4.8-magnitude temblor happened near Agrihan last Saturday.

Ther were no reports of injuries or damage to property in both cases. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center also did not issue tsunami warnings or advisories.

According to the CNMI Emergency Operations Center Warning Point, Wednesday's earthquake occurred 53 miles east of Pagan at 9:23pm.

EOC said Saturday's earthquake happened 41 miles north northwest of Agrihan at 1:01am.

Two weeks ago, three earthquakes occurred near Farallon de Pajaros and Pagan.

Five earthquakes recently occurred near Rota and Saipan in a week.

U.S. Geological Survey seismologist Aaron G. Wech told *Saipan Tribune* earlier that the series of earthquakes are normal and expected in tectonic settings like the CNMI. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Small craft advisory today

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, a small craft advisory in effect until 6pm today, Monday. Winds of 10 to 20 knots with frequent gusts to 25 knots will continue through today. These winds will, in turn, have caused

See SMALL on Next Page

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Judiciary meets with Executive Branch

Officials and members of the CNMI Judiciary led by Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja met with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres on Thursday, March 22, 2018, to discuss efforts to restore full public services at the Guma' Hustisia in Susupe, following the recent air-conditioning system failure.

Attorney General Edward Manibusan and CIP Administrator Elizabeth S. Balajadia were also in attendance.

The Guma' Hustisia is closed to the public for now.

Judiciary operations and court services are made available at alternative locations. Such locations will be utilized until the air-conditioning system at the Judiciary is fully restored.

Commonwealth Recorder services are scheduled for the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Cashier services and the Office of the Clerk of Court are set up to issue police and traffic clearances at the satellite office of the Adult Probation and Supervision, which is behind the Bureau of Motor Vehicles in Susupe.

Similarly, child support payments, bail, traffic, and probation fines and fees can be paid at OAPS' satellite office.

Law Revision Commission services are also available at OAPS' satellite office.

Offices for the Family Court Division and Drug Court Division are at the Department of Public Safety's training offices in Susupe.

Court sessions will be held at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe and at the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands at the Horiguchi building in Garapan. Contact numbers for divisions remain unchanged as do regular business hours.

Director of Courts Sonia A. Camacho stated, "The Judiciary appreciates the support of the Executive Branch and thanks special assistant for Administration Shirley Camacho-Ogumoro, Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero of the Department of Public Safety, Secretary of Finance Larrisa Larson, Director of the Office of Personnel Management Isidro Seman, and our federal partners, Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona and Clerk of Court/Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy of the District Court, United States Marshal Frank Leon Guerrero, and their staff for their responsiveness and assistance. Also, we understand that this emergency has inconvenienced many—those we serve and those who help us to serve them. We thank the public for their understanding and cooperation and the dedicated Judiciary staff for their commitment and support." ***(PR)***

From left: Building superintendent Gerald E. Weaver, law clerk Olga Y. Bykov, chief marshal Jason T. Tarkong, Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja, associate justice John A. Manglona, Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, associate justice Perry B. Inos, associate judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio, Attorney General Edward Manibusan, CIP administrator Elizabeth Balajadia, assistant attorney general Gilbert Birnbrich, Budget and Finance director John T. Villagomez, general counsel and LRC director Sheila N. Trianni, and director of Courts Sonia A. Camacho met to discuss the Judiciary's continuity of operations plan following air-conditioning equipment failure at the Guma' Hustisia on Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BEH

From Page 1

the Superior Court is holding hearings in a small room at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center and at the Department of Public Safety's training offices.

The U.S. District Court for the NMI in Garapan and the Department of Public Safety's training offices in Susupe have also been designated as temporary court locations.

Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja last week said the air-conditioning system at the Guma Hustisia is temporarily online, but repair and monitoring efforts continue, along with testing and manual assessments for the system's temperature controls and its impact on office readiness.

Castro and Naraja said BEH will be performing assessments in various office and courtroom spaces for health and safety assurance standards.

According to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s website, BEH's goal is to ensure the protection of the public and consumers against adverse effects that may result from hazardous environmental health and unsanitary conditions.

Castro and Naraja disclosed that a mold remediation assessment has recently commenced to assist in long-term planning.

"The potential impact from the rise in temperature and lack of air circulation, caused by the recent air-conditioning system malfunction, is being closely observed and monitored," they said.

A source earlier disclosed that it's not just the air-conditioning system, but possibly a serious mold problem that's affecting the system.

A *Saipan Tribune* inquiry about the alleged possible mold problem has not been responded to.

FHWA

From Page 1

merely allocated 20 percent each of the Territorial Highway Program funding as managed by FHWA. Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands each receive the remaining 40 percent of the THP funding. This has been so since 1992.

According to a March 5, 2018, response from Hendrickson, she explained that unobligated balances combined with the low expenditure rate percentages justified the non-allocation of additional funding for each of the two territories.

At the end of fiscal year 2017, the CNMI and American Samoa still had $5.8 million and $8.2 million in unobligated balances, while USVI and Guam had $561,065 and zero respectively, Hendrickson said.

Hendrickson added in the same letter that the CNMI was able to use only 48 percent of its THP funds obligated since fiscal year 2006. American Samoa, Guam, and USVI had expenditure rates of 89 percent, 78 percent, and 69 percent, respectively.

The expenditure rate percentage measures the territories' ability to spend funding allocated to them. A lower expenditure rate percentage implies that the territory is receiving more than it is spending.

"The amount of unobligated funds in combination with the rate of expenditure provides a reasonable justification for not allocating additional funds each year to the CNMI. Doing so would also unfairly affect the funds available for obligation in Guam and USVI, both with higher obligation and expenditure rates," Hendrickson wrote Sablan.

Hendrickson further noted that the FHWA is working with the CNMI to "improve its ability to obligate and expend THP funds" and have seen progress.

"If the CNMI continues to improve in the timely use of available funds, we will work with the four territories to review and adjust the allocation formula as necessary, including determining which factors to use and the weight of such factors," she added.

Sablan writes to Torres

Sablan was then prompted to write Gov. Ralph DLG Torres about this in a March 9, 2018, letter. According to Sablan's office, the Torres administration has yet to respond to the letter.

Sablan cited the same numbers provided him by the FHWA, including statistics pertaining to the other territories for comparison. These included the unobligated balances as well as the expenditure rates for each territory in regards to the THP funding since fiscal year 2006, with the CNMI currently at the bottom of the list.

The delegate told the governor that, in order to secure more funding for the NMI, it was imperative that the CNMI demonstrate that it is "capable of expending funds that we receive, and are in need of increased funding assistance for the construction and improvement" of the NMI.

"...The Commonwealth's ability to quickly expend the money it has available could only enhance future funding opportunities in infrastructure investment proposals as those proposed by the Trump administration," Sablan wrote to Torres.

"I recognize that both the unobligated balance and expenditure rate for the Northern Marianas has improved in recent years. And I appreciate all the hard work and progress that the Department of Public Works has made in getting highway projects off the ground," said Sablan.

SAIPAN

From Page 1

mother figures) were offered activities intended to spark conversation between the two, or just allow a mother and daughter to create memories.

Mothers and daughters could choose to produce arts in an arts-and-crafts section, paint and style their nails in the nail art section, doll up in the makeup station, create beautiful head pieces in the *mwar* making section, take wacky photos in the photo booth, or customize matching charm necklaces or bracelets at the various jewelry making sections.

There were also educational booths set up by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp's Maternal and Child Health Bureau, the Division of Youth Services, and the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

According to Youth Affairs Office special assistant Shalaine Borja, the event was facilitated for mothers and daughters to enjoy a night together. Borja said the hope is that if mothers and daughters spend an entire night together, they'll know more about one another.

Borja said the event was put together also in observance of women's month.

"We know it's vital for mothers and daughters to have that kind of relationship where they support each other because girls are the women that shape our society," she said.

Borja said that if an improvement was to be made for the next year, she would organize it in a way that would include not just mothers and daughters, but mothers and their sons as well.

"If we do have another event…we'll be opening up not only to daughters but to mothers and all their kids," she said.

Borja was proud of the event's turnout because the goal of bringing mothers and their daughters was reached. Borja said she observed that mothers and daughters were thrilled to bond while completing the activities that the event offered.

FIRES

From Page 1

etation in the Mua area yesterday. Rota Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services advised the public to refrain from burning anything during outdoor activities due to high winds that could spread the flames.

Last Thursday, the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Guam issued a notice that the drought period in the NMI is expected to worsen in the next couple of weeks.

Following the issuance of the notice and with the expectation of moderate to occasionally strong trade winds over most of Micronesia in the next couple of months, the Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management is advising CNMI residents to refrain from outdoor burning activities to avoid wildfires and endanger surrounding life and property.

DFEMS spokesperson Derek Gersonde on Friday said the big fire, which moved east and south toward the Talafofo area, has become aggressive and has burned live brush and trees in its path.

Gersonde said the second fire, which was small, continued to move north toward San Juan.

One DFEMS team was fielded at the Department of Public Safety Target Range in San Juan, while another team was stationed at the northern end of Wireless Ridge. The third team was assigned in Talafofo near the Kingfisher Golf Links.

DFEMS monitored the two fires throughout Friday night for any erratic behavior that might endanger residential areas and farms.

On Saturday, DFEMS reported that the San Juan fire had slowed down as of 6pm, while the Talafofo/Wireless Ridge fire had smoked out.

Gersonde said DFEMS assigned a team in San Juan and another team at Wireless Ridge Saturday night to monitor for any flareups.

In the Chinatown blaze, Gersonde said the fire occurred above the Man'Amko Center, but was extinguished at 5pm Saturday.

While some showers have fallen recently, dryer weather is expected to develop in the next few weeks.

Last Tuesday midnight a fire engulfed a two-story house in Chalan Kanoa as the brush fire that broke out a day before (Monday) was still spreading at Wireless Ridge that day (Tuesday).

Last March 12, three grass fires destroyed a total of over an acre of vegetation near Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School in San Roque and at the Tanapag Cemetery.

A brush fire swept 4.5 acres of vegetation in Papago last March 7.

Two weeks from Papago fire, multiple brush fires occurred on Tinian and Rota.

Gersonde reminded the public that the best way to battle grass fires is to prevent it from ever starting.

SMALL

From Page 3

seas to rise to between 7 to 9 feet, with additional increases to 10 feet possible by today.

A small craft advisory means that wind speeds or frequent gusts of 21 to 33 knots are expected to produce wave conditions.

The public and inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, are encouraged to avoid sailing in these conditions. ***(PR)***

Judge rules in favor of ex-governor in a land dispute

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has ruled in favor of former governor Pedro Pangelinan Tenorio, who sued a couple over the title of a piece of land on Saipan.

In an order last Thursday, Camacho denied a motion of defendants Antonio Salas Camacho and Elphidia Pangelinan Camacho to set aside the court's entry of default against them.

The judge determined that the couple was properly served with Tenorio's lawsuit.

Camacho granted Tenorio's renewed motion for default judgment and ruled that the fee simple of the land is quieted in favor of the former governor.

That means the Camacho couple and all others have no estate right, title, lien or interest in the property, and are stopped from making any adverse claim in Tenorio's title to the property.

The property's measurement was not indicated in the order.

The judge ruled that there is no legal ground to set aside the court's entry of default.

Camacho said the defendants were served by publication of the amended summons that was published in a local paper on Dec, 18, 24, and 31 in 2015, and on Jan. 8, 2016. That means that, although the defendants were not personally served at their "dwelling house or usual place of abode" as required by the Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure, they were served by publication.

Camacho said the clerk of court made an entry of default on Feb. 4, 2016.

According to court records, the issue involves a dispute over two competing deeds issued by Benigno Kaipat for a piece of land.

Antonio and Elphidia Camacho purportedly hold a deed executed by Kaipat on Aug. 28, 1967, and recorded 17 years later on Jan. 3, 1984.

Tenorio purportedly holds a deed executed by Kaipat on March 22, 1972, and recorded 13 days later on April 4, 1972. Tenorio filed a petition to quiet title in 2015.

The order concerns whether the Camacho couple were properly served with the petition to quiet title.

Tenorio attempted to serve the defendants both by personal service at a residence, as well as by publication.

At the Nov. 14, 2017, evidentiary hearing, the court heard testimony from process server Rainaldo Agulto and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary Camacho on the issue of whether the defendants were served at the defendants' residence.

Agulto testified that he went to the defendants' business location in Lower Base and was informed that the defendants were off-island.

Agulto also went to a house on Capital Hill, to serve the summons and petition on the defendants.

Agulto knew that this house on Capital Hill was the defendants' residence. However, when Agulto arrived at the property, the house was abandoned, the yard was overgrown, the property was covered in garbage, and CUC had turned off the utilities.

Agulto knew Gary Camacho, the defendants' son, through his work at CUC.

Agulto asked Gary Camacho where his parents were, and Gary Camacho informed him that his parents were off-island receiving medical treatment.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

COMPLIANCE SPECIALIST
Re-Announcement # JVA18-24

DUTIES: The successful candidate will monitor and supervise participants for the CNMI Drug Court. The compliance specialist will work directly with men and women who have substance abuse addictions and will report to Drug Court Manager and Court regarding participant compliance in the program. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Provides assistance to the Drug Court Manager in monitoring participants;
- Performs all assigned duties relating to cases scheduled for court appearance in drug court hearing;
- Gathers and evaluates data pertinent to individual drug court cases from resource areas including, as necessary, participants' home, school, church, social agencies, neighborhood contacts, etc;
- Contacts public and private community resources to secure services for participants. Maintains a continuing and ongoing relationships with the agencies as necessary;
- Coordinates enforcement of drug court orders including curfews and home detention with CNMI Drug Court Probation Officer and Law Enforcement Officers;
- Maintains contact with local law enforcement agencies, Drug Court Judge, Office of the Public Defender, Office of the Attorney General, employers, local social service agencies, schools and others;
- Coordinates investigations in preparation of court-ordered reports staffing and hearings;
- Maintains case records and statistical data for evaluation purposes and for submission to the Drug Court Manager;
- Attends and participates in Drug Court staffings and hearings;
- Attends public relations activities such as community group meetings, conferences, panel discussions, and other related forums;
- Follows Court policy for monitoring payments ordered by the Court. The payments to be monitored include, but are not limited to, restitution, fine, child supports, etc.;
- Works closely with Drug Court Caseworkers to support case management, coordination of services and monitoring;
- Conducts gender-specific observed drug testing in accordance with CNMI Drug Court protocols; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent and have obtained an associate's degree from a recognized college or university in criminal or behavioral science or related field. Have four (4) years experience in the law enforcement or other related experience.

Applicant must have a professional demeanor and be able to exercise good judgment in stressful situations. The ability to maintain client confidentiality at all times is imperative. Report writing skills and case management experience would be preferred. Applicants with criminal records will not be considered. Criminal record check will be conducted. Drug test designated position.

Have a valid driver's license and be proficient with Microsoft Word and Excel; must be knowledgeable about the use of data systems.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary range will be $25,000 - $28,000 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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Re-announcement # JVA18-25
Office of the Clerk of Court
Superior Court
SAIPAN

DUTIES: This position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his/her designee. The employee performs work in accordance with established policies, practices, and court procedures. The following are required duties:

- Receives, reviews, and records documents filed for hearings;
- Provides data entry of pleadings onto the court's case management system;
- Provides daily updates of pleadings and other caseload information for the assigned judge through the court's automated processes, including, but not limited to, the document imaging and online filing system;
- Assesses fines, receives and accounts for monies, issues receipts, prepares deposit slips and provides disbursements per court order or requests from customer service window;
- Prepares and maintains physical and electronic file folders for court cases, including tracking of all pleadings associated with individual cases files;
- Serves as a courtroom clerk when court hearings are in session, including, but not limited to, swearing in of witnesses, logging of all admitted exhibits, tracking all phases of a hearing on an index sheet for the recording counter, operating the electronic recording equipment, and providing continuous monitoring of the recording equipment to ensure the integrity of the record; and,
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Must have a high school diploma or equivalent plus a minimum of three (3) years related work experience. There is a strong preference for those with work experience in the legal field and those with a Bachelor's Degree. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary will be $20,485 - $22,500 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

DPW: Kilili does not understand how federal highway funds work

The Department of Public Works was appalled by the recent accusations of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) in suggesting that the Department of Public Works is not performing its duties.

"This is unfortunate and very disappointing coming from our [delegate]. What he should have done is communicate with our office to at least understand how the program is being administered. DPW has formulated a four-year Transportation Improvement Plan from year 2016 through 2020 under the appropriation of the FAST-ACT from U.S. Congress, which has been approved by our territorial representative from the Federal Highway Administration in Hawaii," said Anthony A. Camacho, director of Technical Services.

"Had…Sablan taken the time to understand, it will clearly show that the yearly appropriation of $3.8 million is barely enough to complete one project that is listed in our TTIP. The Transportation Improvement Plan will give him a better idea of how we distribute funds to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota in order to facilitate continuous improvements on all three islands," he added.

Public Works Secretary James A. Ada noted that FHWA funds have already been obligated for various projects.

"If…Sablan took the time to talk with us and review our TTIP, he and his staff would have saw that the CNMI has been moving forward with proposed projects with completed Plans, Specifications, and Estimates amounting to over $60 million, which includes reconstruction of Route 33 Beach Road; construction of Route 302 Naftan Drive; construction of Route 304 Kagman Drive; hazard elimination project in Rota Route 10; Sabana Road Route 103 Phase II; and hazard elimination projects in Tinian Phase II.

"What…Sablan needs to understand is we need more funds to complete these proj-

Continued on Next Page

During a recent trip to Guam to attend the Guam Forum, CNMI Technical Services Division director Anthony A. Camacho, Highway administrator Lorraine M. Seman, and Federal Program coordinators Lauren DLC. Sanchez and Stacyann Atalig met with Richelle Takara, Federal Highway deputy administrator from Hawaii and Bruce Johnson, senior project manager from Black Micro, to discuss and view the presentation for the Route 36 highway project, which is from Kingfisher to Bird Island—a total of 3.7 miles. Because of the large amount of funding shortfall based on the bid submitted, DPW TSD is working to secure more funding so that they will be able to proceed with this long-awaited project.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Board of Trustees
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9911, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday, March 27, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the CEO's Conference Room 3 located at the Administrative Offices (new wing).

CHCC Board of Trustees Special Meeting
Tuesday, March 27, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Determination of Quorum

III. Review and Adoption of the Agenda

IV. To vote and approve Applications for Privileges for the following individuals:

New Applicants:
1.) Dr. Diana Thiara
2.) Dr. Magdy Maksy

Renewal Applicants:
1.) Dr. Joel Smith
2.) Dr. Daniel Lamar
3.) Ann Rochell Ermitanio, Physician Assitant

V. Adjournment

P.O. Box 500409 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 236-8201/2 Fax: (670) 233-8756

PEREDO, CHRISTOPHER JOHN
JACK DELEON GUERRERO JR
P.O. BOX 505216 CK SAIPAN MP 96950
670-256-2575

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the Change of Name of: PEREDO, CHRISTOPHER JOHN JACK DELEON GUERRERO JR. Petitioner

FCD CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 18-0109

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on April 2, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A before Honorable Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 9th day of March, 2018.
Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

ects than the amount of funds he is talking about. DPW has said this before and will say it again: [Delegate] Sablan should help us look for new money and not worry about the existing formula grant funding. In fact, the last time the CNMI received discretionary funds of $12 million for road projects clearly were not from his efforts," Ada added.

Ada emphasized that the "unobligated" funds are from various federal highway projects that have been funded, completed, and have a remaining balance.

"This means that all encumbrances were paid, the project has been accepted and closed out by the government. Upon final closure, all remaining balances are reverted back to Federal Highway for reconciliation. After the financial review is cleared, funds are once again availed for CNMI to re-obligate. The recent financial report received from FHWA is as of Jan. 24, 2018."

Ada further noted that DPW was not even aware of Sablan's letter dated Jan. 31, 2018.

"On March 20, 2018, it was brought to DPW's attention by Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication regarding FHWA funding. We thank… Igisomar, Senate President Arnold Palacios, and PUTC vice chair Justo Quitugua for taking time to meet with DPW regarding the congressman's letter. Between January and March, neither Sablan nor any of his office staff contacted or visited DPW to inquire about the unobligated funds," he said.

Highway administrator Lorraine Seman stated that the process of obligating FHWA funding is not difficult and that it is important that all obligated funds are also spent within the "Period of Performance."

"If an obligation remains dormant, then FHWA reports reflect them as 'inactive obligations.' …Sablan failed to state that the CNMI's active obligation record with the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration's most recent quarterly report shows that the CNMI has exceeded the national requirement for 'inactive obligation' of 2 percent. The CNMI has the percentile of 0.1 percent, with Guam at 14.4 percent and American Samoa at 22.8 percent. The other territories have obligated all their funding, however, they have not met the 2-percent national inactive expenditure obligation. This is based on the annual apportionment. All obligations with no expenditure activity for 12 months or more are considered inactive by U.S. DOT FHWA," Seman said.

Seman noted that Federal Highway funds may be reduced, suspended, diverted or approval of new federal funds may be withheld should a state or territory continue to fail to meet the 2 percent national inactivity requirement within its 12 months authorized, which is not the case of the CNMI.

"All funds are under the oversight and stewardship of Federal Highway and no funds can be expended without the pre-approval signature stamp from the territorial representative out of Hawaii. We welcome…Sablan to visit our office and hopefully he does take the time to fully understand and clear up this misinformation. If he needs to review our records, we are more than happy to avail our time for him. Our FHWA territorial representative will be on island on the week of April 2 to 6 to conduct a program review and will also be meeting with government officials," she added.

For his part, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that DPW has expended and exceeded the national requirement for Federal Highway funding use and completion.

"The accusations [of] our congressman is unwarranted and out of line because he failed to perform his due diligence in understanding how federal dollars are spent under the Federal Highway Administration. In fact, the FHWA has commended DPW's team of engineers, not once but twice in the past year for their effective funding utilization. The CNMI has even surpassed American Samoa and Guam in addressing inactive obligations. While our infrastructure needs in the Commonwealth are growing…Sablan has not been able to help secure more funding to aid the work already being done for our infrastructure. The strong relationship DPW has made with FHWA over the years has allowed for more federal funding to be obligated to projects that have been sitting idle under past administrations for years," Torres said.

"I am very disappointed in our congressman's inaccurate claims that serve nothing more than to undermine the hard work and progress that our DPW engineers and employees do every single day. These false claims are a disservice to our community." ***(PR)***

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‘US denial of voting rights violates international law’

Nearly 4 million citizens living in U.S. territories—a population greater than 21 states and larger than the five smallest states combined—are denied the right to vote for President and voting representation in Congress simply because of where they happen to live. This includes more than 100,000 veterans and active duty service members living in U.S. territories. At the same time, decisions made by the federal government impacting residents of U.S. territories can literally mean life or death, a fact thrown in stark relief by the six-month anniversary of Hurricanes Maria and Irma hitting Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Leaders from Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands are now arguing that this is not just morally wrong, it is a violation of international law. Represented by Equally American (formerly We the People Project), a non-profit organization that advocates for equality and civil rights in U.S. territories, territorial leaders from these areas have filed an amicus brief in support of a case brought by former Puerto Rico governor Pedro Rosselló before the Organization of American States Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Rosselló v. United States argues that by denying U.S. citizens in the territories voting representation in the federal government, the United States is violating its international law obligations under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, and other international agreements. The case was originally filed in 2006 but is only now reaching the merits.

Rosselló and Puerto Rico Resident Commissioner Jenniffer González have also filed a letter in support of the case.

“Six months after Hurricanes Maria and Irma, it is important to recognize that the denial of voting rights in the U.S. Virgin Islands and other territories has a real-world impact on the daily lives of those who call the territories home,” said Delegate Stacey Plaskett, who represents the U.S. Virgin Islands in Congress but who cannot vote on final passage of congressional legislation. “This month also marks Virgin Islands History Month and the end of the Virgin Islands’ centennial commemoration as part of the United States—100 years—yet we still aren’t treated as equally American.”

“Our country was founded on representative democracy, and it is un-American to deny voting rights to the millions of Americans living in the territories,” said Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo, who represents Guam as a non-voting delegate to Congress. “The people of Guam have demonstrated time and again our patriotism to the United States. Especially given increasing tensions with North Korea and the harmful effects of recent federal laws to our island, it is more important now that we be afforded a say in the election of our President and full voting representation in Congress.”

“Denying the right to vote in U.S. territories is not only a violation of America’s core democratic and constitutional principles, it is also a violation of the United States’ commitments under international law,” said Neil Weare, president and founder of Equally American, who represents amici. “We are hopeful that international pressure will help the United States live up to the democratic ideals it champions throughout the world. Residents of the territories proudly serve to defend democracy abroad; it is time they are able to fully enjoy it at home.”

“I am, and the people of Puerto Rico are, very grateful to our brothers and sisters in the other territories for their support in our case pending before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The lack of voting rights at the [federal] level for the U.S. citizens in the territories is un-American, undemocratic, against our basic human rights, and a violation of international law,” said Rosselló, the lead petitioner in Rosselló v. United States. “Now well into the 21st century, it is high time that the U.S. remedy this situation if our country wishes to remain the beacon of democracy and the world’s standard-bearer of human rights.”

The amicus brief puts in context the historical relationship the United States has with Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands, highlighting the impact decisions made by the federal government have on the daily lives of U.S. citizens living in these areas. The brief also emphasizes the proud tradition of military service in each of these territories, where casualty rates in Iraq and Afghanistan is 3 to 4 times the national average.

Rosselló v. United States follows Statehood Solidarity Committee v. United States, a similar case filed by advocates for equal rights in the District of Columbia in which the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ruled in 2003 that the denial of voting representation in Congress for residents of D.C. violated the United States’ international law commitments.

The United States is expected to file its response to the petitioners in Rosselló v United States in the next month or two.

The amici include Bordallo, Plaskett, Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), Carl T.C. Gutierrez, former governor of Guam; Charles W. Turnbull, former governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands; and Donna M. Christian-Christensen, former delegate representing the U.S. Virgin Islands. ***(PR)***

Palau compact funded in omnibus bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has praised President Donald Trump for signing the 2018 Omnibus Funding Agreement, which included funding to finalize the 2010 Palau Compact Review Agreement between the United States and the Republic of Palau.

He said that funding the 2010 Palau Compact Review Agreement demonstrates the continued U.S. commitment to Palau and the Western Pacific region.

“The agreement is an important element of the Pacific national security strategy to maintain stability in the Western Pacific,” said Zinke. “Interior has held a long, historic relationship with Palau and other U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands and we look forward to continuing our role on behalf of the U.S. government in providing these funds to the government of Palau.”

Doug Domenech, the assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs, said that Interior will be working closely with the State Department and other federal partners to move forward.

The U.S. and Palau governments will need to meet to update the funding schedule of the 2010 agreement, which required specific annual outlays of funds. Included in the assistance are contributions to the Palau Compact Trust Fund, a capital improvement program, and an infrastructure maintenance plan. The specifics of disbursements must be reaffirmed by the parties prior to the implementation to the agreement. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-18-003

LOWER BASE SEWER PHASE 1 – LIFT STATION AND FORCEMAIN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Lower Base Sewer Phase 1 – Lift Station and Forcemain in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of new installation of a lift station and forcemain, a new generator building, new and tapping into the existing forcemain. The work also includes the installation of air relief valves, gate valves, and asphalt pavement restoration, etc. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Economic Development Authority (USEDA) and the Department of Interior (USDOI). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEDA and USDOI.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 3rd, 2018 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. Prospective Bidders are mandated to attend the Pre-Bid Conference and Site Visit.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *“CUC-IFB-18-003, Lower Base Sewer Phase 1- Lift Station and Forcemain”* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 18th, 2018**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 5th, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Assistant via email christie.sablan@cugov.org and to Travis Spaeth, CUC Project Engineer via email address travis.spaeth@cucgov.org .

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-18-015

LEASE OF OFFICE/WAREHOUSE SPACE FOR CUC POWER DIVISION TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION SECTION, SAIPAN CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from firms for the lease of office & warehouse spaces for CUC Power Division, Transmission & Distribution Section in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space may be situated within or adjacent to the warehouse. The office & warehouse must have a loading dock and parking stalls that can accommodate over-sized heavy equipment (e. g. bucket trucks, augers and backhoes). Additionally, the proposed office space must conform to American Disabilities Act (ADA), OSHA and CNMI Zoning requirements.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *“CUC-RFP-18-015, Lease of Office/Warehouse Space for CUC Power Division Transmission and Distribution Section, Saipan, CNMI”* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **April 16, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. Proponents shall comply to all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 28, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC, Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Lee Lieto, CUC, Acting Power Division Manager via email address lee.lieto@cucgov.org, Adrian Reyes, CUC, Power Division Engineer via email address adrian.reyes@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Vendors sought for NMC Charter Day

The Northern Marianas College is inviting vendors to take part in the college's 37th Annual Charter Day celebration on April 13, 2018.

Agencies, businesses, clubs and other civic organizations are invited to participate in this year's celebration by purchasing booth space for the following categories: food and drinks (water/ coconut juice in a nut), game booths, retail (arts, and crafts, toys etc.), and information.

Booth application forms must be submitted by Wednesday, April 11, 2018, by 4pm. Note, however, that booth spaces are limited so applications should be submitted as soon as possible.

The booth fee is $150 for all commercial vendors but for student clubs and nonprofit organizations, booth fees are $75.

Applications forms can be picked up from the NMC-CDI Office in Building P.

For more information, contact Queanna Sablan at 237-6809 or email queanna.sablan@marianas.edu. For additional information about Charter Day, contact Alexis Cabrera at 783-2356. ***(PR)***

Food vendors from last year's Charter Day offered a variety of delicious food and drinks. The deadline to submit applications for booth spaces will be on April 11, 2018. To sign up for booth space for the upcoming Charter Day, call 237-6809 or email charter.day@marianas.edu.

IN MEMORIAM ERWIN ENCINARES

Sen. Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) summarizes a Senate resolution honoring the late Frances Faibar Rebuenog and presenting it to her family in a session last Thursday.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

HERMINIA M. FUSCO, JULIA B. MATSUMOTO, and LIM, JAE YEOL,	CIVIL ACTION NO.. 06-0080
Plaintiffs, v. ROMAN B. MATSUMOTO, Defendant.	ORDER AFTER HEARING

This matter came before the Court for a hearing on Order in Aid of Judgment on February 21, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 202A. Plaintiff Herminia M. Fusco appeared with her counsel, Colin M. Thompson. Defendant Roman B. Matsumoto did not appear. Based on the information presented at hearing, the Court orders the following:

1. That the Plaintiff's request for an order to serve Defendant by publication is granted;

2. That the Defendant, Roman Matsumoto is ordered to appear at the next hearing scheduled for April 4, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.; and

3. That the Defendant is ordered to appear on April 4, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. and Show Cause why he should not be sanctioned for violation of the Court's previous orders as well as answer questions in Aid of Judgement.

SO ORDERED this ___ day of March, 2018.

HON. ROBERTA C. NARAJA
Presiding Judge

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NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2018

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, **through the** Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an **estimated** $1,264,412.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of $902,206.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); $293,829.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, $68,377.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2018.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention **and rapid re-housing** activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning January 03, 2018.

You may also obtain the application online at www.nmhcgov.net in the section titled "Public Notice/Announcement" subsection "Community Planning Development"

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by ***April 06, 2018, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after April 06, 2018, will not be accepted.***

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows:

February 07, 2018, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Saipan
February 08, 2018, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Tinian
February 09, 2018, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Rota

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the Rota Mayor's Office Conference Room in Tatachog.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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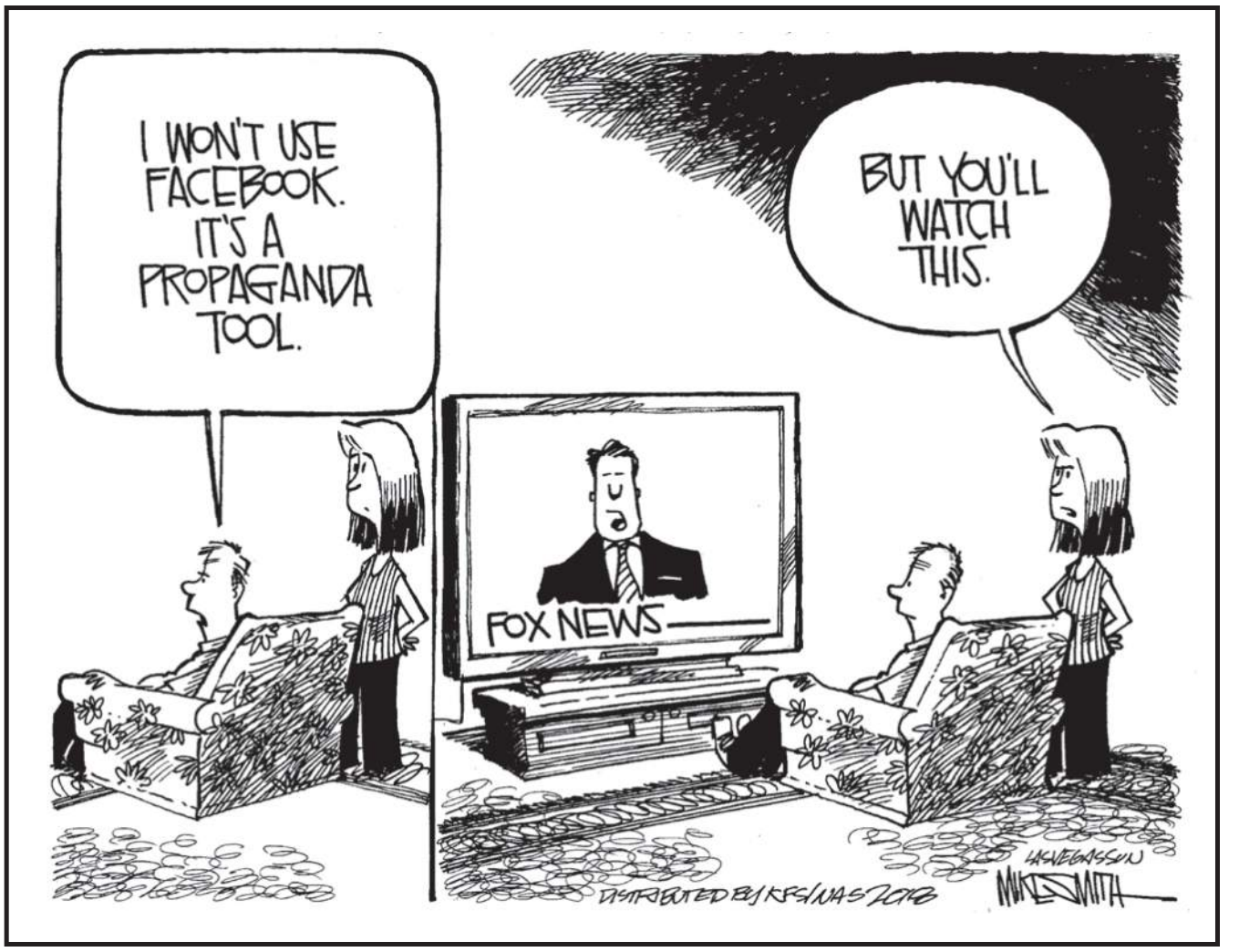


EDITORIAL

Tougher regulations needed for Facebook

Facebook used to tell its programmers to "move fast and break things."

Who knew that one of the things could be the integrity of elections.

Yet we're now learning that information about 50 million Facebook users was misused by Cambridge Analytica, a political consultancy with ties to President Donald Trump that specializes in manipulating voter opinions.

As reported in The New York Times and the U.K.'s Guardian, information about millions of Facebook users ended up at the firm. It uses such data to psychologically profile voters and influence them with pinpointed messages.

Steve Bannon oversaw the firm's Facebook data-gathering before leading Trump's campaign and serving as chief White House strategist. Among other things, Cambridge Analytica took credit for spreading the campaign's "Crooked Hillary" theme.

The firm used data that a researcher collected with Facebook surveys, then inappropriately disclosed. The firm's influence on the 2016 election is unclear, but the situation shows how polluted the river of information has become on social media, where two-thirds of Americans now get news.

Obviously, this should prompt more aggressive regulation of Facebook's core business, which is amassing user data to precisely target advertising. Stronger rules and penalties are needed for companies that leak data, effectively force users to share personal information and have weak controls over how their data is used.

This is not just a technical privacy issue, though. It's also a civics problem, which is harder to solve.

Facebook's targeting system is used by political campaigns and foreign governments seeking to disrupt elections and sow discord. Facebook is stepping up enforcement but must be more transparent in reporting such activity and how it screens malicious messages.

Still, the onus is ultimately on the public to be critical consumers of news, so it's less vulnerable to psychological manipulation enabled by companies like Facebook.

Facebook's current debacle should also prompt a discussion about how to strengthen democracy to withstand the dangers of a few giant, opaque companies becoming arbiters of knowledge of current affairs, with enormous influence over voter opinions.

Our government and election rules adapted to the emergence of radio, TV and the internet. They should be resilient enough to withstand the rise of megacompanies using secret algorithms to manipulate the flow of information.

The Northwest is heavily involved. The whistleblower is a Cambridge co-founder from British Columbia. Silicon Valley-based Facebook employs 2,000 and counting in Seattle, it's largest outpost. Facebook's lead independent director is Susan Desmond-Hellmann, CEO of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in Seattle.

See TOUGHER on Next Page

The 'adults in the room' now are the kids marching in the streets

By ANN FRIEDMAN
Los Angeles Times

Ann Friedman is a contributing writer to the Los Angeles Times' *opinion section.*

They're self-absorbed, consumeristic, politically disconnected, addicted to spouting their opinions on Facebook, and never show up when it counts. They seem unable to complete the most basic, practical tasks.

Adults really are ruining America.

Of course, that's not how they frame it. They point to young people as the ones unable to get it together, and to some degree that message has gotten internalized. If you follow people under the age of 30 on Instagram, you're familiar with "adulting," the catch-all hashtag applied to doing anything from following a recipe (rather than eating Doritos for dinner) to knowing what a 401(k) is (even though you can't afford to contribute to it). T-shirts and tote bags warn the world, "I can't adult today."

But there are aspects of adulthood that young people should resist. This is the lesson that the student movement for gun control is teaching the country right now. On Saturday, teenagers who survived the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., will lead thousands into the streets to show they are fed up with preventable gun violence like school shootings. The March For Our Lives, according to the protest's website, "is created by, inspired by, and led by students across the country who will no longer risk their lives waiting for someone else to take action."

The message is clear: You grown-ups have failed us.

Adulting, in this context, isn't about paying bills on time. It's passively accepting the status quo, or actively protecting yourself at the expense of others. These shameful activities are the hallmarks of those who consider themselves one of "the adults in the room," to use a well-worn phrase that's become popular in the Trump era.

If you ask these adults, it's a problem that kids don't want to emulate them. "To a growing number of young Americans, acting like a grown-up is a kind of role-playing that can be thought of as a joke," writes Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Neb.) in his book, "The Vanishing American Adult: Our Coming-of-Age Crisis." "Our kids simply don't know what an adult is anymore—or how to become one."

To the contrary, our kids know exactly what an adult is. And it's laudable that they are striving to avoid turning into one.

Let's look at what the self-proclaimed "adults in the room" have been up to. Sasse has received lots of press for his criticism of the president, but 95 percent of his votes have aligned with Trump's agenda. Endorsed by the National Rifle Assn., Sasse also voted for a recent bill purporting to increase school security that, in fact, contained no gun control measures. He and his fellow adults in Congress enjoy excellent health insurance, retirement benefits and metal detectors at every entrance of their workplace while failing to extend these practical protections to all other Americans.

Then there's the purported adult in the White House, who responded to the Parkland shooting by echoing the NRA's call to arm schoolteachers. He posts more cruel tweets than even the most petulant teen, and most of the adults in his party refuse to stand up to him about it. The ex-CEOs and military men tasked with keeping POTUS in check keep falling down on the job too.

Sure, adults know how to practice the ancient art of balancing a checkbook, but as they accrue political power and social status, they tend to become inert in the face of violence, lies and injustice. Historically, it's young people who have been at the forefront of antiwar efforts, the civil rights movement and countless other collective actions to make America a better place for those who have been pushed to the margins. In theory, adulting is all about accepting responsibility. In practice, the most powerful adults are adept at blaming others for their failures—and teenagers see right through them.

In a speech at a gun control rally in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., that quickly circulated on social media, March For Our Lives organizer Emma Gonzalez decried companies for "trying to make caricatures of the teenagers these days, saying that all we are (is) self-involved and trend-obsessed"—in other words, insufficiently adulting. She continued: "They hush us into submission when our message doesn't reach the ears of the nation. We are prepared to call BS." She went on to call BS on a range of adults, including Congress, the NRA and constituents who haven't demanded action on this issue.

On Saturday, young people will march with Gonzalez to say this is not acceptable. I hope that the older generations who join in will do more than hold signs; they have to do the work. Because if their definition of adulting doesn't include action and accountability, they can't blame young people for not wanting to join their ranks.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

America's first serial killings were in Austin, too

By ELIZABETH SOUDER
The Dallas Morning News

Elizabeth Souder is assistant editorial editor for The Dallas Morning News.

The first serial killings in America took place in Austin, just as the most recent serial killings happened in our state capital. Skip Hollandsworth wrote a book called the "The Midnight Assassin: The Hunt for America's First Serial Killer," published in 2015, about the long-ago Austin killer. I've been thinking about that book as I've read news coverage of the Austin bombings, the similarities and differences. So I made a call to Hollandsworth, a Texas Monthly writer living in Dallas.

Q: This past month, I have been thinking about Midnight Assassin as these bombings have happened in Austin because it seems a similar indiscriminate killing, and I wonder what you've been thinking about.

A: Well, there was an eerie similarity to the killings I wrote about, that took place 138 years ago, which was that they started with murders of black women and initially white Austin wasn't very concerned. It was dismissed as a "negro murder." Then came another one and it too was dismissed as a negro murder, and then came another one, and it too was dismissed as a negro murder in which young black males were caught up some kind of blood lust to kill their girlfriends or ex-girlfriends.

There was this distance that white Austin kept from the killings until Christmas Eve 1885, almost exactly one year after the murders began. Two white socialites were murdered in the space of an hour and panic broke out.

This was reflected in the bombings in March, where people thought initially this is a hate crime against minority residents, until the bombing in the wealthy white neighborhood.

And suddenly there was, again, a kind of panic, a prickly, pervasive fear that something terrible had come unleashed, and you would see white residents of Austin suddenly afraid to check their mail or afraid to ride their bikes down city trails.

What you saw was this sense of foreboding, building to true fear, and that's what serial killings do to any city. It's that slow accumulation of bodies, one after another, no one knowing when the killer's going to attack again or why. This is why serial killers have had such an impact on this country, because when they happen, and when the killer is smart enough to get away with it, they're hard to catch.

Q: That seems like a key difference in these two incidents. The Midnight Assassin, that's a very intimate killing where he had to touch the people and lay them out like art, whereas the package bomber may not have even known who he had killed.

A: That's such a good point, and the Midnight Assassin clearly had some sort of private satisfaction doing these killings. The package bomber was trying to create chaos. If he had gone on for a longer period of time, longer than three weeks, he probably would have. We'd be reading stories about people leaving Austin, moving out until the killer was found.

Q: Didn't that happen in the 1800s? That some people left or were reluctant to come?

A: Well, here is an interesting similarity. Austin has always been a city that has tried to present itself to the public as the shining city of America, the place where so much is offered, culture, academia, technology. So when this bomber went to work, Austin was exposed. Then it was just like any other city.

In Austin in 1885, that was precisely the moment when the city and state leaders were trying to tell the world that Austin and Texas was no longer the home of outlaws. That it was sophisticated and modern and was hurdling into the gilded age of America. Electric lights were arriving, telephones had shown up, there was a new State Capitol being built, the University of Texas had just opened.

Austin was the shining city of the West, and then here came these killings, which the leaders of the city wanted to cover up as soon as possible.

Q: I think it's also interesting that the idea of mental illness is on the fringes of both of these stories, but not really part of the story itself.

A: When the killings happened in the 1800s, one of the theories, and this is how primitive the world was about serial killers _ I mean you know that the phrase "serial killer" did not exist, that there was no FBI, that there were no behavioral scientists that worked for the FBI, that there was no fingerprinting, there was no criminology, there was no hair evidence, there was no blood evidence. All that had yet to be invented. So theories begin to emerge that perhaps these lunatics that were housed at the state lunatic asylum were getting loose in the middle of the night and jumping the fence and running into town to murder, clean up in Waller Creek, wash themselves off, and get back to the asylum before role call at daybreak.

And there are surely theories about this kid who did the bombings, who had this inoffensive, inconsequential life, that he was driven by some unknown mental illness. We're destined to hear that at some point as this story continues to unfold.

Q: I found the end of your book unsatisfying, because I really want to know who the Midnight Assassin is. But I enjoyed the end as well because it's clear that you were frustrated with not knowing.

A: Well, the book has been out for two years, and I'm haunted. It was so different back then. Austin was just 17,000 people. Surely someone knew which man was slipping out of his house at night to do these killings. Surely there's got to be some document, some letter, some journal, somewhere saying, "I think I know who the killer is," but all of it's gone. Police records have disappeared, mental asylum records have disappeared. It's as if Austin leaders wanted to completely cover up or just hide the fact that there was a killer out there that couldn't be caught.

Q: I enjoy the idea that it might have been Jack the Ripper because it gave me an ending, but the book indicates you doubt this is true.

A: Jack the Ripper was a publicity stunt. Austin leaders began to push the story that Jack the Ripper had come from Austin, because that way if their killer had gone across the pond to start the killings again, then that meant he was no longer in Austin. English newspapers love the idea too, because as long as it was an uncouth Texan doing it, then it wasn't one of their own.

One of the things just to remember is that in Austin in the 1800s, there were two to three cops that were investigating the murders, some private detectives who had no idea how to investigate murders. This time, within a week, more than 500 federal agents had descended on this city to help the Austin police look for the bomber. All those trucks, all those trailers, all that technology, all that ability to use high tech skills from running credit card records to cellphone records, to store receipts. None of that was available to the police in 1885.

DROWNING

From Page 10

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg belatedly admitted mistakes were made and vowed to better protect user data. The company already cracked down on the Cambridge Analytica leakage several years ago.

Even so, the company's repeated failures to uphold privacy promises and shortcomings in controlling data it shares demand a stronger response.

Members of Congress have rightly called for hearings. The Federal Trade Commission is looking at whether Facebook violated a 2011 consent decree that was supposed to prevent privacy violations.

This is an opportunity for U.S. regulators to catch up to peers in Europe who have responded more assertively to privacy, taxation and antitrust concerns with U.S. tech giants.

Germany, for instance, concluded last year that Facebook is abusing its dominance "by making the use of its social network conditional on its being allowed to limitlessly amass every kind of data generated by using third-party websites and merge it with the user's Facebook account."

Penalties and more privacy safeguards are in order.

Facebook is at an inflection point, similar to when Bill Gates ordered Microsoft in 2002 to change its culture and business to bolster the trustworthiness of its products.

Zuckerberg, like Gates, will probably find ways to strengthen Facebook and rebuild trust. The company should emerge stronger.

What remains to be seen is whether Americans can fix these newfound vulnerabilities in their democracy and maintain trust in the integrity of their elections and government.

(c)2018 *The Seattle Times*

Stop insulting Stephen Hawking

By MIKE ERVIN
Tribune News Service

Mike Ervin, a writer and disability rights activist in Chicago, writes the blog Smart Ass Cripple at smartasscripple.blogspot.com.

Shortly after physicist Stephen Hawking died on March 14, Gal Gadot, the actor to most recently play Wonder Woman, tweeted, "Rest in peace Dr. Hawking. Now you're free of any physical constraints. Your brilliance and wisdom will be cherished forever."

As a person who needs a wheelchair to get around, I find such comments insulting, and I think Stephen Hawking would have, too.

First of all, Hawking didn't even believe in anything like heaven. So if Hawking really has graduated to a place where an old white man with a flowing beard presides over a paradise where nobody is cursed with a disability, it looks like he wasn't so smart after all. And in fact, being a non-believer, Hawking would probably be denied admission to heaven, which means he must be sitting in his wheelchair in hell saying to himself, "I guess I overthought this universe thing."

When I hear people imply that, in the blissful afterlife, nobody is crippled, I wonder if they feel the same way when a woman dies or a black person dies. Do they think that being "free" in their case also means the deceased has finally assimilated by shedding the identity that caused them to be oppressed in their mortal lives? "Well at least she's free in heaven now, where she's a white man like everybody else."

And if nobody is crippled in heaven, then, conversely, everybody in hell must be crippled. It must be part of every punishment. Everybody is blind or deaf or stutters.

Rolling through life in a wheelchair, as Hawking did and I do, is not a life of perpetual hell. But it is hell when my wheelchair breaks down. Because then I'm stranded. My wheelchair is what makes it possible for me to get around and enjoy life. In order to get rolling again, I'll have to deal with the corporate arrogance of wheelchair manufacturers, who will put a 5 million percent markup on the price of the parts I need because I can't get them anywhere else. And I'll have to duke it out with my insurance company to get it to pay at least a portion of the repair bill.

But I digress.

Hawking wrote in Science Digest in 1984: "My disabilities have not been a significant handicap in my field, which is theoretical physics. Indeed, they have helped me in a way by shielding me from lecturing and administrative work that I would otherwise have been involved in."

Stephen Hawking enlightened all of us about our place as humans in the universe. But within that universe, there are still a lot of humans who believe a disability is nothing but a burden and a hindrance to success and happiness in life. Sadly, even Hawking couldn't make them more enlightened about that.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.
▲89° ▼77°

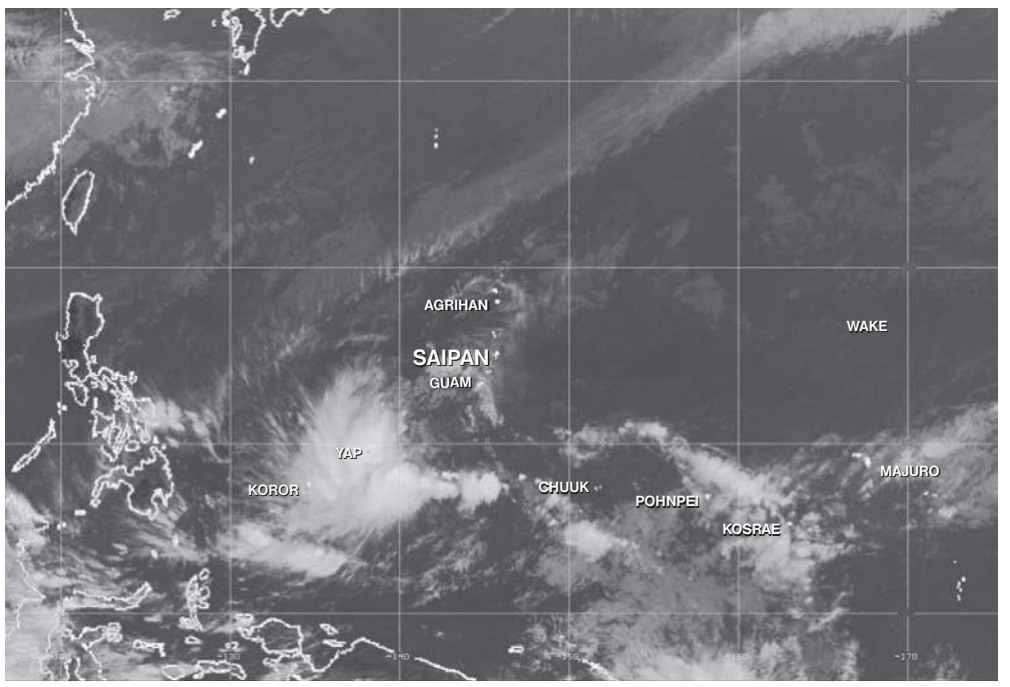
TUESDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.
▲88° ▼76°

WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°

THURSDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°

FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:17 AM, SUNDAY, MARCH 25 , 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Maintained high risk of rip currents along east facing reefs and small craft advisory. Looks breezy today, although most of the showers are passing south of us. Upped the clouds today as it is starting out pretty cloudy, showers should remain minimal though so kept them isolated. Winds should settle down Monday night or Tuesday, allowing Marianas weather to return to normal.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Showers	86° / 76°
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	83° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	73° / 63°
Beijing	Sunny	77° / 50°
Hong Kong	Sunny	77° / 68°
Honolulu	Sunny	81° / 69°
London	Showers	52° / 43°
Los Angeles	Sunny	67° / 47°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	91° / 75°
Melbourne	Showers	73° / 50°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	73° / 64°
New York	Sunny	47° / 32°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	68° / 52°
Paris	Showers	54° / 43°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	61° / 50°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	59° / 41°
Salem	Cloudy	61° / 46°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	58° / 44°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	63° / 48°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 52°
Washington, DC	Sunny	48° / 29°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:07 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.71
9:19 AM	LOW TIDE	1.21
2:07 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.68
9:46 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.12

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:17 AM	6:28 PM
Tuesday	6:16 AM	6:28 PM
Wednesday	6:15 AM	6:28 PM
Thursday	6:15 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:14 AM	6:29 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:44 am	1:28 pm
Tuesday	-	2:40 am	2:28 pm
Wednesday	-	3:34 am	3:28 pm
Thursday	-	4:24 am	4:27 pm
Friday	-	5:12 am	5:24 pm

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

FBI Guam offers hazmat workshop

TAMUNING, Guam—The Federal Bureau of Investigation is offering specialized training to provide advanced understanding of the hazards posed by improvised explosives and potentially dangerous chemicals.

The "Chemical Industry Outreach Workshop" is intended for public safety officials and people who work in the chemical industry. This includes suppliers of pool chemicals, beauty supplies and home improvement materials.

The workshop will include a classroom presentation and demonstration on the explosive effects of conventional and improvised explosives. The demonstrations will underscore the potential dangers of particular chemicals, both in the hands of terrorists as well as juvenile experimenters.

The one-day workshop will be offered on both Wednesday, April 18, and Thursday, April 19, in Mangilao, Guam.

There is no cost to attend, but there is limited seating. Those interested in attending should submit their name, workshop date preference, telephone number and email address, company/agency name and job title to jjkowatch@fbi.gov. ***(PR)***

USCIS provides more accurate processing times

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services launched last Friday a pilot to test a redesigned processing times webpage that displays the data for all forms in an easier-to-read format and also tests a new way of collecting data and calculating the processing times for some forms. The pilot will test four forms using a new automated methodology for calculating processing times. The four forms are:

- Form N-400, Application for Naturalization;
- Form I-90, Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card;
- Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status; and
- Form I-751, Petition to Remove Conditions on Residence.

The new webpage makes it easier for anyone to see approximately how long it will take USCIS to process a form, which will help users determine when it is necessary to contact USCIS to make an inquiry if their case is outside the normal processing time.

For the four pilot forms, the information on the webpage reflects a new methodology for collecting and calculating processing times. The new methodology is automated, more accurate, and allows USCIS to post data on processing times within two weeks, compared to six weeks under the old methodology.

The updated page displays processing times in a range for each form based on the date USCIS receives it. The low end of the range for pilot forms shows the time it takes to complete 50 percent of cases, and the high end shows the time it takes to complete 93 percent of cases. The high end for the non-pilot forms will be adjusted by 30 percent above current cycle times to reflect the time it takes to complete a majority of the cases.

Applicants, petitioners, and requestors can create an online account at uscis.gov/casestatus to track the status of their cases.

They may make an "outside normal processing time" case inquiry for any cases pending longer than the time listed for the high end of the range by submitting a service request online or calling the USCIS Contact Center at 1-800-375-5283. USCIS will continue to seek user feedback during the test phase and expand this methodology to additional forms in the future. ***(PR)***

AWARD NOMINEES

Gloria Cavanagh, left, of Pacific Islands Club and Donna Krum of Friends First Marketing kick off the First Hawaii Bank & *Guam Business* magazine 13th annual Businesswoman of the Year event at the Hyatt Regency Saipan last Friday. The two are among the seven nominees this year. The winner will be announced at a gala on April 28, at the Hyatt Regency Guam. The Businesswoman of the Year program recognizes businesswomen in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands who have made significant contributions to their industries and have demonstrated a strong commitment to their community.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-18-2011

Submission /Closing Date: March 29, 2018 Time: 3:00 p.m.

For: Local Public Relations and Media Services

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority, Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building, Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861, Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **February 26, 2018**, at the **Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan**, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified courier services by **March 29, 2018**, and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the Commonwealth must notify the MVA/ Mr. David B. Muna in writing of their intent to submit a proposal in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. Participants outside the **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** must submit a **Notice of Intent** by any mode of written communication including facsimile at+1-670-664-3237 or email to dmuna@mymarianas.com, and must be received by 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on **March 29, 2018**.

All questions regarding this RFP must be sent to Mr. David B. Muna at dmuna@mymarianas.com or faxed to +1-670-664-3237, **no later than 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on March 15, 2018.**

/s/ Gloria C. Cavanagh
Chairperson, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing Director

TO RAMON S. AND REBECCA B. DELA CRUZ:

Ramon Santos Dela Cruz is in default upon his Note dates August 25, 2006, secured by a Mortgage of the same date, executed and delivered by you to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) Description of the Real property covered by Mortgage:
Lot no. 001 G 74, situated in Kagman I, Saipan,
Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 729 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 001 G 03, the original of which was recorder 20 March 1986 as document no. 86-0510 at the Office of the Commonwealth Recorder, Saipan.
(b) Date and amount of Note and Mortgage: August 25, 2006; $11,214.00
(c) Amount due for principal: $483.38 as of June 1, 2017
(d) Amount due for interest: $2,362.21 as of June 1, 2017
(e) Daily accruing interest: $2.51

If the principal, interest, and late charges $2,845.59 plus accruing interest, together with reasonable attorney's fees in the amount of $500.00, are not paid within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this notice upon you, you will be in default, Court proceedings will be commenced against you to foreclose upon the said Mortgage because of the default.

Unless you, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this letter dispute the validity of the claim, or any portion thereof, we will assume that it is valid. If you notify us in writing within this thirty (30) day period that the claim, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain information on the debt and mail you a copy thereof. Upon your written request within this thirty (30) day period, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the creditor indicated above.

This letter is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Si Ramon Santos Dela Cruz ti ha komple I kontratan debiña (Promissory Note) ni ma fitma gi Agosto 25, 2006, ni afabobot i Mortgage ma asegurao ni ma empeña (Mortgage) un propiadat tano, ni afabobot I Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) I deskripsion tano ni ma empeneña (mortgaged):
Sito numiro 011 G 74, ni gaigi gi Kagman I,
Saipan, Northern Marianas, ni ha konsiste un aria 729 kuadrao metro, mas pat menus, mas patikulamente ma eksplika gi Drawing/Cadastral Plat numiro 011 G 03, I orihinat ma rekodia 20 Matso 1986 komu dukumento numiro 86-0510 gi ofisinan I Commonwealth Recorder, Saipan.
(b) I kantida yan I fechan este na debi yan empepeña: Agosto 25, 2006; $11,214.00
(c) Kantida un debi para principat: $483.38 asta ki Juñio 1, 2017
(d) Kantida un debi para interes: $2,362.21 asta ki Juñio 1, 2017
(e) Interes kadi dia: $2.51

Yangin ti un apasi I kantida na principat, interes, yan apas pot atrasao (late charges) $2,845.59 yan I rasonle na apas abugado pot $500.00 gi halom trenta (30) dias despues di I fetcha ni un risible este na notisia, un ma konsidera komo ti unkomple I kontratamu (default), ya siempre u-matutuhun kontra hago a kausan kotti ni para uma kondena ya uma bendi I propriadat tano'mu ni un empepeña guato ni Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Solo yangin halom trenta (30) dias dispues de un resibe este na kata yan un kontra minagahet-ña pot I apudera sino komo I pattida, siempra bai in hongge an asientadu a apulera. Pago yangin un kattayi ham gi halom este I trenta (30) dias siklo man infofotma hao pot I apudera sino komo I pattida para un kontra, pues bai in henta infotmasion pot I dibi-mu dispues un ma kattayi I kopia pot este na de'unta. Anai in resibe I katta-mu gi halom trenta (3) dias siklo, bai in nai'I hao in na'an yan address I akredot komo ti parehu na akredot ma indika guini hulu.

Este na kata para u ma na'kesiña ma rikohi I dibi-mu. Meseha hafa na infotmasion ni in resibe pot este na apudera – siña bai in usa para bai ke-chagi mu rekohi para este I dibi-mu.

/s/
MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ.
Attorney at Law

U.S. PASSPORTS & INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL
U.S. Department of State • Bureau of Consular Affairs

Saipan US Passport Acceptance Facility

ANNOUNCEMENT!

APPLY BEFORE THE APRIL 2ND FEE INCREASE!

Before ⟶ After April 2nd

- First time or Renewal – Minors 15 years & below, 5 yr. Passport: $105 ⟶ $115
- Young Adults transitioning from 5 year passport to 10 year passport or First Time Adult Applicants – 16 years & above, 10 year Passport: $135 ⟶ $145
- 10 year Passport expired past 5 years or more: $135 ⟶ $145

For details about US Passport application requirements, please visit https://travel.state.gov or call our office at (670) 664-4760/1/2 or visit us at Ascension Dr. Bldg. 1321, Capital Hill.

travel.state.gov facebook.com/travelgov travelgov Scan to access travel.state.gov

IPI's 'Village Pride Project' reaches out to As Matuis

Imperial Pacific International, LLC's Corporate Social Responsibility Program continue to serve the community through its signature outreach work, The Village Pride Project.

Last week, the IPI-CSR team reached out to As Matuis, the northernmost residential village of Saipan, for its beautification work. ***(PR)***

An IPI-CSR staff strips off years of paint covering the surface of the As Matuis bus stop. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Revealing the years-old paint that remained untouched until Imperial Pacific's CSR team worked on this public structure.

The before look of the As Matuis bus stop.

The finished look of the As Matuis bus stop.

The CSR team of IPI applies a fresh coat of paint to the As Matuis bus stop.

Bush-cutting and cleaning up the surrounding area leading to the bus stop.

This As Matuis bus stop received a fresh coat of paint.

Imperial Pacific's sent its team to ensure success of its Village Pride Project.

Imperial Pacific's CSR staff initiate massive groundswork around the bus stop area.

Dirt, graffiti, and aging paint are all over the surface of this bus stop in As Matuis.

Imperial Pacific International, LLC's CSR Program brought its team to As Matuis. In this photo, CSR personnel repaints the concrete village sign.

IPI-CSR senior director Geri Dela Cruz joined her team in getting down and dirty in helping spruce up this public facility.

Scraping dirt, among other work, by this IPI-CSR staff.

Business

Can Facebook restore public trust after privacy scandal?

CHICAGO (AP)—It's a scandal of privacy, politics and an essential ingredient of business success - public trust.

Facebook is confronting a costly, embarrassing public relations debacle after revelations that Cambridge Analytica may have misused data from some 50 million users to try to influence elections. Among its marquee clients: President Donald Trump's general election campaign.

Now a company known as much for reminders of a long-lost friend's birthday and documentation of acquaintances' every whim is grappling with outrage—and the possible loss of confidence—from users around the globe that have made the social media site a part of their daily routine.

"I trust somebody until they give me a reason not to trust them," said Joseph Holt, who teaches business ethics at the University of Notre Dame. "And Facebook has increasingly given me reasons not to trust them."

Losing that would be a disaster, not just for Facebook, but for any Silicon Valley company that relies on users to open up their private lives.

The amount of trust placed in technology has soared. Cars sync with cell phones. Refrigerators know when there's no more milk and reorder it. Virtual assistants field answers to nearly any inane question.

AP

In this Aug. 6, 2015, file photo, FaceBook elections signs stand in the media area in Cleveland, Thursday, before the first Republican presidential debate.

And with each turn of the steering wheel, sip of milk or request for dinner reservations, a trail of digital crumbs is left for companies to collect, analyze and profit off.

The public has largely been willing to accept the trade-off, knowing in exchange for giving up some data, Netflix will offer spot-on show suggestions, Amazon will prompt a diaper order and Google will figure out what to search before a user finishes typing it.

Not everyone understands the darker side of data brokers in an always-connected society.

Every time a person shops online or at a store, loyalty cards linked to phone numbers or email addresses can be linked to other databases that may have location data, home addresses and more. Voting records, job history, credit scores (remember the Equifax hack?) are constantly mixed, matched and traded by companies in ways regulators haven't caught up with.

While Facebook let slip data profiles on millions of people, "it's much more than that," says James Grimmelmann, a professor at Cornell Law School. "Trying to pin down any one breach as being the source of all the privacy harms out there is futile."

For Facebook, whose power and value are built on being so ever-present in people's lives, the impact has been immediate—its share price is down nearly 14 percent since the scandal broke March 16.

Investors fear that Facebook users will start to think twice before posting the latest snapshots of their puppy, or clicking "like" on a news story or movie trailer.

"It's something that's going to remain in people's memory," says Mike Chapple, a University of Notre Dame professor with expertise in cybersecurity. "I think it's changed people's perceptions."

After the scandal broke, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg apologized, admitted his company's mistakes and said security needs to be enhanced to protect users' data. He noted that this is a major trust issue for the public.

It follows closely on the heels of the company acknowledging it helped spread fake news and propaganda from Russian-linked trolls disrupting the 2016 presidential election.

While some disenchanted Facebook users have deactivated their accounts, others point out that breaking up can be hard to do. If a credit card company or an airline's data is breached, it's easy enough to switch allegiances. But for most of Facebook's 2 billion users there's no real substitute, says Aaron Gordon, a partner at Schwartz Media Strategies, a Miami-based public relations and crisis management firm.

China warns against 'trade war,' appeals for cooperation

BEIJING (AP)—A top Chinese official warned Sunday a "trade war" would harm all sides but gave no indication of Beijing's possible next move in a spiraling dispute with President Donald Trump over steel and technology.

Speaking to global business leaders at a development forum, Vice Premier Han Zheng appealed for cooperation to make economic globalization "beneficial for all."

"A trade war serves the interests of none," said Han at the China Development Forum. "It will only lead to serious consequences and negative impact."

Han didn't mention Trump by name or refer directly to the dispute with Washington, but the country's newly appointed economy czar warned Saturday that Beijing will defend its interests. The government issued a $3 billion list on Friday of U.S. goods including pork and stainless steel pipes it said might be hit by higher tariffs.

The Commerce Ministry said those charges were linked to Trump's approval earlier of higher tariffs on steel and aluminum imports. But a bigger battle is brewing over Trump's approval Thursday of a possible tariff hike on $30 billion of Chinese goods in response to what Washington says is Beijing's improper acquisition of foreign technology.

Global financial markets have sunk on fears Chinese retaliation might prompt other governments to raise import barriers, depressing global trade.

Han appealed to other governments to "cooperate with each other like passengers in the same boat" and "make economic globalization more open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial for all."

However, he also emphasized that China's income per person still is low, suggesting Beijing is unlikely to offer significant concessions to Washington.

Han repeated promises that planned Chinese market-opening would create new opportunities for foreign companies. Business groups have welcomed reform pledges but complain Beijing is moving too slowly, making it unclear whether additional promises will mollify Washington, the European Union and other trading partners.

In a phone call Saturday with U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, Vice Premier Liu He said Beijing is "ready and capable of defending its national interest and hopes both sides will remain rational," according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

In a speech to the economic forum, Apple CEO Tim Cook acknowledged tensions in Western societies that fuel demands for import controls and said companies must take action to spread the benefits of globalization more widely.

"Not everyone has benefited like all of us in this room have from technology and globalization, and we all must help to address this disparity," said Cook, a co-chairman of the event. "Their cause must become our cause."

The annual forum, which brings together corporate leaders with Chinese economic officials, usually is used to showcase Beijing's plans. This year, those include ambitious promises to open financial markets and give entrepreneurs and foreign companies a bigger role in China's state-dominated economy.

Other business leaders at the event included IBM Corp. Chairwoman Virginia Rometty, CEO Patrick Pouyanne of French oil giant Total SA, Bank of China Ltd. Chairman Chen Siqing and CEO Ulf Mark Schneider of Nestle SA. It also was attended by China's newly appointed central bank governor, Yi Gang, and other Chinese economic leaders.

This year's forum has been overshadowed by the growing rancor between Washington and Beijing over Trump's efforts to redress what he says is an unfair trading relationship. Washington accuses China of flooding global markets with unfairly low-priced steel and other goods and stealing or pressuring foreign companies to hand over technology.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Delta helps hundreds of students fly to DC for gun protest

Delta Air Lines has donated three round-trip charter flights that allowed hundreds of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School students to participate in the "March for Our Lives" protest against gun violence in Washington. Delta said the donation is "part of our commitment to supporting the communities we serve." Marches are also being held in New York, Chicago, Houston and Parkland, Florida, the site of the shooting. It's not Delta's first involvement with the issue. After last month's shooting, Delta said it will no longer offer discounted fares to members of the National Rifle Association to reflect its neutral status on the gun-control debate. Other businesses made similar moves, which led to a backlash from gun advocates. The state of Georgia eliminated a proposed tax break on jet fuel in retaliation. ***(AP)***

United gives $10,000 travel voucher to 'bumped' passenger

A passenger who was bumped off a full flight has scored the maximum prize—a $10,000 travel voucher. A spokesman for United Airlines confirmed Friday that a passenger got the big voucher, but he didn't name the person. In a series of tweets, Allison Preiss of Washington, D.C., says she was rewarded after being asked to give up her seat. Preiss says she was trying to fly from Dulles Airport outside Washington to Austin, Texas, for a bachelorette party. A broken seat meant the airline had one too many passengers, but nobody volunteered to leave so United picked her because she was the lowest-paying passenger. Preiss tweets that an employee offered a $2,000 voucher but she wanted cash. Then a United agent offered a $10,000 voucher. ***(AP)***

Nation

Heartbroken by gun violence: Rallies across US demand change

AP
Zachary Chakin holds up a sign as crowds of people participate in the March for Our Lives rally in support of gun control, Saturday, March 24, 2018, in San Francisco.

WASHINGTON (AP)—They came from a place of heartbreak to claim their spot in history: Hundreds of thousands of teenagers and supporters, rallying across the United States for tougher laws to fight gun violence.

The "March for Our Lives" events on Saturday drew massive crowds in cities across the country, marking the largest youth-led protests since the Vietnam War era.

In Washington, D.C., New York City, Denver, Los Angeles and other cities, demonstrators heard from student survivors of last month's school shooting in Parkland, Florida.

"If you listen real close, you can hear the people in power shaking," Parkland survivor David Hogg said to roars from protesters packing Pennsylvania Avenue from a stage near the Capitol to a spot many blocks away toward the White House. "We're going to take this to every election, to every state and every city. We're going to make sure the best people get in our elections to run, not as politicians but as Americans.

"Because this," he said, pointing behind him to the Capitol dome, "this is not cutting it."

The message at the different rallies was consistent, with demonstrators vowing to vote out lawmakers who refuse to take a stand now on gun control. Many rallies had tables where volunteers helped those 18 or older register to vote while speakers detailed the policies they wanted and the impact gun violence has had on their lives.

The fire alarm at Trenton High School is scary, said 17-year-old Gabrielle James at a march in suburban Detroit.

"We don't know if it's an actual drill or if someone's actually inside the school, going to take your life," James said at a march in Detroit.

She said government has "extremely failed" to protect students from gun violence and she wants restrictions on automatic weapons.

"I work extremely hard at my studies. Sometimes I just sit in my car before going to school, wondering if I'm going to be home to see my mother after school," James said.

Some of the young voices were very young. Yolanda Renee King, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 9-year-old granddaughter, drew from the civil rights leader's most famous words in declaring from the Washington, D.C., stage: "I have a dream that enough is enough. That this should be a gun-free world. Period."

By all appearances—there were no official numbers—Washington's March for Our Lives rally rivaled the women's march last year that drew far more than the predicted 300,000.

The National Rifle Association went silent on Twitter as the protests unfolded, in contrast to its reaction to the nationwide school walkouts against gun violence March 14, when it tweeted a photo of an assault rifle and the message "I'll control my own guns, thank you."

President Donald Trump was in Florida for the weekend and did not weigh in on Twitter either.

White House spokesman Zach Parkinson said: "We applaud the many courageous young Americans exercising their First Amendment rights today." He also pointed to Trump's efforts to ban bump stocks and his support for school-safety measures and extended background checks for gun purchases.

Since the bloodshed in Florida, students have tapped into a current of gun control sentiment that has been building for years—yet still faces a powerful foe in the NRA, its millions of supporters and lawmakers who have resisted any encroachment on gun rights.

Will GOP accomplishments in Congress be enough for voters?

WASHINGTON (AP)—With passage of an enormous budget bill, the GOP-controlled Congress all but wrapped up its legislating for the year. But will it be enough to convince voters to give Republicans another term at the helm?

In two big ways, Republicans have done what they promised. They passed a long sought tax overhaul bill that slashed tax rates. They've rolled back regulations, in ways they claim are boosting the economy. In the Senate, they confirmed a justice to the Supreme Court.

But there are signs Americans wanted more: immigration reforms, gun control legislation, even an infrastructure plan that President Donald Trump promised voters. Tax cuts, for now, will have to do.

"It's very clear that tax reform was going to be the biggest legislative crown jewel of this Congress," said Matt Gorman, the spokesman for the House GOP's campaign arm, the National Republican Congressional Committee. "That is a massive centerpiece of our campaign."

But polls swing wildly these days, strategists said. Voters are rarely focused for too long on single issues that can make or break campaigns, as when Republicans seized control of the House in 2010 amid the economic downturn or Democrats pushed to the majority in 2006 over opposition to the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and congressional ethics scandals.

Trump's mixed messages on the GOP's accomplishments only make the campaigning more difficult. At the White House on Friday, he toyed with a veto of the $1.3 trillion budget package, complaining it lacked his immigration deal and smacked of overspending, before ultimately signing it. Such shifting views leave Republicans without a reliable partner as they try to push through political headwinds in what's expected to be a tough battle for majority control of the House and Senate.

Lawmakers left town for a two-week recess that marks the unofficial end of the legislating season having shelved resolution of other issues.

Congress failed to pass legislation to curb rising health insurance premiums or protect young immigrants known as Dreamers from deportation, two issues that have stirred voters this year. And ahead of the nationwide "March for Our Lives" protests against gun violence, lawmakers took modest steps to boost school safety funds and improve compliance with the federal gun purchase background check system.

Kris Brown, co-president of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, said the measures are "just not enough."

"The American people have been screaming from the rooftops for real, bold change to fight against" tragedies such as the Florida and Las Vegas shootings, Brown said. "We have seen the consequences of Congress's inaction."

Congress' spring agenda is thin. It includes modest plans to finish a banking bill that rolls back some of the regulations put in place after the financial crisis and pass a big farm bill that sets agriculture and school nutrition policies. The Senate also has to begin confirmation hearings for Trump's nominees for secretary of state and CIA director.

7 months after Harvey, flood-control projects' fate unclear

HOUSTON (AP)—Large-scale projects long considered essential to easing Houston's flooding woes went to the top of the area's to-do list after Hurricane Harvey inundated large swaths of the nation's fourth-largest city.

Seven months later, local officials are still looking for funding to undertake plans that include a new reservoir, deeper and wider bayous and a coastal barrier system—all of which have fallen victim to a lack of money or political will in the past.

Yet local leaders insist this time will be different, saying they're committed to making the projects a reality, even as they wait to find out how much money they might get from the state and federal governments and whether local taxpayers will be willing to help out.

"There's been a whole lot of talk over the years, but now it's time to get it done in the post-Harvey era," Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said at a recent community meeting.

One thing that's giving Turner and others hope is that billions of federal dollars have been allocated to pay for flood-mitigation projects. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has promised $1 billion for areas affected by Harvey, though Houston will be competing with other Texas communities for that funding. Congress in February provided $15 billion to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for flood-control projects nationwide, some of which could go to the Houston area.

Houston, which was founded on the banks of the Buffalo Bayou around the mid-1800s and rises barely above sea level, has long been susceptible to flooding. But recent growth has made the problem worse. The area has more pavement, which generates more stormwater runoff, and has lost wetlands that could soak up that runoff.

Big projects Houston-area officials are eying include building a third reservoir for the area, at a cost of about $500 million. They also want to complete the excavation and widening of six local bayous, a $1.3 billion project, part of which has proceeded in fits and starts for more than 20 years due to inconsistent funding. And they want to undertake a project known as the coastal spine, which was first proposed after Hurricane Ike in 2008. That $6 billion to $10 billion project - also called the "Ike Dike" - proposes barriers to protect the area from storm surge coming into Galveston Bay.

This "will be very different than the last several decades when things were thought of but never actually executed," said Marvin Odum, Houston's Hurricane Harvey recovery czar.

Whichever projects are ultimately funded, they will likely take years to build.

Turner and other Houston-area officials have asked Texas Gov. Greg Abbott to use the state's $11 billion rainy day fund to help front the cost of building the reservoir and other projects, with the state being repaid once federal dollars are awarded. But that message has "fallen on deaf ears," said Stephen Costello, Houston's chief resilience officer.

Asia

Obama: N. Korea's isolation means less leverage in talks

TOKYO (AP)—Former President Barack Obama said Sunday that negotiations with North Korea on its nuclear weapons program are difficult, partly because the country's isolation minimizes possible leverage, such as trade and travel sanctions against Pyongyang.

"North Korea is an example of a country that is so far out of the international norms and so disconnected with the rest of the world," Obama told a packed hall in Tokyo Sunday.

He stressed the effort to get North Korea to give up nuclear weapons remains difficult, but countries working together, including China as well as South Korea and Japan, to combine pressure on North Korea will be better than nations working alone.

Obama

He noted that past U.S. efforts on Iran's nuclear weapons were more successful because there was more leverage, but there's little commerce and travel with North Korea to being with.

"That makes them less subject to these kinds of negotiations," he said of North Korea.

Obama was speaking at an event sponsored by a Japanese nonprofit group during his trip to Asia, which included earlier stops in Singapore, New Zealand and Australia. Obama's work after leaving office has been focused on nurturing young leaders.

Obama, welcomed by a standing ovation, said the U.S.-Japan alliance remained strong, and the U.S. committed to defending Japan.

"North Korea is a real threat," he said.

"Our view has always been that we would prefer to resolve these issues peacefully," he said, adding that otherwise "the cost in terms of human life would be significant."

He acknowledged progress on a nuclear-free world will likely take a long time as long as Russia and the U.S. could not agree to start reducing their stockpiles.

Obama also reflected on his 2016 visit to Hiroshima, one of two Japanese cities where the U.S. dropped atomic bombs in the closing days of World War II. His visit was the first by an American president.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippine police kill 13 drug suspects in daylong raids

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police said Thursday they killed 13 drug suspects and arrested more than 100 suspected dealers and criminals in one day of raids in a province with a record of bloody crackdowns. The suspects were killed in gunbattles with police in a city and eight towns in Bulacan province just north of Manila, said police Senior Superintendent Romeo Caramat Jr. More than 70 raids were launched in the province on Wednesday, leading to the arrests of 109 people, including 92 suspected drug dealers and users, he said. The violence raises the death toll in President Rodrigo Duterte's anti-drug crackdown to 4,239 since it was launched in July 2016, with more than 131,500 others arrested, the national police said. The United States, EU and other governments have expressed alarm and called on the Philippines to curb the bloodshed. Human rights groups have cited much higher death tolls and called for an independent investigation, including by the United Nations.

Pakistani court frees 20 in killing of Christian couple case

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—A Pakistani court has acquitted twenty people suspected of involvement in the lynching and burning alive of a Christian couple accused of blasphemy in 2014. Shahzad Masih, 26, and Shama Shahzad, 24, brick factory workers and parents of three, were burned alive in an industrial kiln by a mob incited by accusations that the couple desecrated the Quran in the town of Kot Radha Kishan. Police arrested scores of villagers and a court in Nov 2016 sentenced five men to death while ten others were given varying jail terms. Prosecutor Abdur Rauf says the court Saturday acquitted twenty suspects indicted in the case at a later stage. Blasphemy is a sensitive issue in Pakistan and a mere allegation can often prompt mob violence.

Police suspect mother strangled 3 kids in Pakistan

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani police say a woman was depressed when she allegedly strangled her three children in the eastern city of Lahore. Police officer Bilal Zafar says Aniqa Khatoon inflicted several cuts on her forearms with a sharp blade Saturday before informing her father and police of the kids' deaths on the outskirts of the provincial capital. Khatoon alleges her boyfriend killed her two sons, ages 5 and 9, and her 7-year-old daughter. Zafar said the woman was divorced about seven years ago and has had financial problems. Police detained the woman's boyfriend Hasan Mustafa for questioning but he has denied he was in the house when the children were killed. Zafar suspects the mother murdered her children in extreme depression.

2 Chinese rescued more than 50 hours after dredger capsized

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Two Chinese sailors have been rescued more than 50 hours after their sand dredger capsized off Malaysia's southern coast, a maritime official said Saturday. Three more bodies were also discovered, leaving nine others still missing. Divers heard knocking sounds and found the two sailors in the ship's engine room on Friday, apparently trapped in an air pocket that had kept them alive after the vessel overturned on Wednesday, said coast guard official Sanifah Yusof. They were weak and dehydrated and have been hospitalized, he said. Their rescue raised hopes there may be others still alive, he said, adding that air is being pumped into the ship to help possible survivors. Sanifah said rescuers also discovered a body floating near the vessel and two more, including a woman inside the ship, on Saturday. He said this brought the death toll to four and left nine others, including a Malaysian and an Indonesian, unaccounted for. Sanifah said a team of Chinese divers had joined the search operation and that rescue efforts had been intensified. He said the submerged vessel was moved closer to shore and stabilized to prevent it from sinking.

World

French praise cop in hostage swap

TREBES, France (AP)—The French police officer who swapped places with a female supermarket employee being held hostage had already received a lifetime of accolades by the time he walked unarmed into the store under attack by an extremist gunman.

Known for his courage and sang-froid, Lt. Col. Arnaud Beltrame was acclaimed by neighbors, colleagues and French authorities as a hero Saturday after his death from wounds the day before. President Emmanuel Macron announced plans for a national ceremony to formally honor him.

After agreeing to the hostage swap, Beltrame surrendered his weapon—but kept his cellphone on, allowing authorities outside the Super U market in the southern French town of Trebes to hear what was happening inside.

Thanks to Beltrame's quick thinking, special police units heard gunshots inside the store Friday and stormed the building immediately, killing the attacker.

"Beyond his job, he gave his life for someone else, for a stranger," his brother, Cedric, told RTL radio in France. "He was well aware he had almost no chance. He was very aware of what he was doing ... if we don't describe him as a hero, I don't know what you need to do to be a hero."

"Arnaud Beltrame died in the service of the nation to which he had already given so much," Macron said. "In giving his life to end the deadly plan of a jihadi terrorist, he fell as a hero."

The date of the ceremony for Beltrame wasn't immediately set.

The hostage whose life he saved, an employee named Julie, was in a "catastrophic state," her manager said.

Beltrame's entire career seemed to lead inexorably to the moment when he responded to the attack Friday in Trebes, a 15-minute drive from the gendarme unit he had led since last August.

He joined France's elite police special forces in 2003 and served in Iraq in 2005. A former member of the presidential guard, he earned one of France's highest honors, the Order of Merit, in 2012.

In December, Beltrame organized a counterterrorism training session for just such a hostage situation - down to the location in a supermarket. At the time, he armed his officers with paintball guns, according to the Depeche du Midi newspaper.

"We want to be as close to real conditions as possible," he said then.

In addition to the four people killed by the gunman Friday, 15 others were injured.

Investigators searched the home of the attacker, Moroccan-born Redouane Lakdim, 25, and found what a judicial official said were notes "that alluded to the Islamic State and appeared like a last testament." They also found a computer and a phone.

Hundreds gather to leave second pocket in Syria's Ghouta

BEIRUT (AP)—Hundreds of members of a rebel group and their relatives boarded Saturday 17 buses in preparation to leave eastern Ghouta to opposition-held areas north of the country Saturday as part of an agreement to evacuate the second of three pockets held by opposition fighters east of the capital Damascus, Syria's state media reported.

State TV and the government-controlled Syrian Central Military Media said more than 500 fighters and their relatives will leave Saturday night toward northern Syria, and hundreds more will evacuate the following day. State TV and SCMM earlier said that a total of 7,000 people will leave four towns in eastern Ghouta before reporting that the number had dropped to just over 3,000, without providing an explanation.

The departure comes a day after an agreement was reached between Faylaq al-Rahman, the second most powerful rebel group in eastern Ghouta, and the Russians to surrender the second of three pockets in eastern Ghouta, where rebels have been holding up over the past years.

Earlier in the day, bulldozers removed giant sand barriers from a main road in the town of Harasta that will be used by the rebels and their relatives to make their way to the country's north. After sunset, several buses carrying evacuees arrived at the edge of the town of Arbeen where they gathered before heading north.

The government-controlled SCMM said a corridor was prepared for Faylaq al-Rahman members and their relatives to leave the towns of Zamalka, Arbeen, Ein Tarma and Jobar.

The evacuations come after thousands streamed out of Harasta, the first pocket after a similar negotiated deal for the evacuation of armed fighters and civilians. On Friday night, Harasta was void of rebels for the first time in six years.

"The city of Harasta in eastern Ghouta is free of terrorism," SCMM said referring to opposition fighters that the government refers to as terrorists.

Faylaq al-Rahman said in a statement Friday that the deal will lead to the immediate evacuation of sick and wounded people for treatment and to allow aid to enter the besieged area.

The group added that opposition fighters and their relatives who decide to leave eastern Ghouta will head to rebel-held parts of northern Syria while civilians who choose to stay will be guaranteed safety.

It said that Russian military police will deploy in Faylaq al-Rahman-controlled areas including the Arbeen, Zamalka, Ein Tarma and Jobar. A prisoner exchange will take place between the group and the government, the group added.

Eight government supporters released by Faylaq al-Rahman told state TV about the mistreatment they were subjected to while being held underground and given little food and water. One of those released, whose left eye appeared closed in the report, said "they hit me on the eye damaging it."

Another person released said "they used to beat us, keep us hungry and place us underground in the cold and we did not know when they would kill us."

Health & Wellness

5 free ways to relieve stress

By TRAE BODGE
GOBANKINGRATES.COM TNS

There's an abundance of retreats, books, spas and pricey gadgets you could invest in to relieve stress, but you can also unwind without spending a dime. From free relaxation apps to a good stretch at your desk, here are five cost-free ways to relax and get rid of stress.

YOGA

Yoga, which is regarded as another form of meditation, can be a good option for people who struggle with sitting still. A study of 52 women found they experienced a decrease in anxiety and stress levels by taking two hot yoga classes per week, according to Medscape medical news.

"Yoga is a great stress reliever. You can take your yoga practice with you no matter where you are," said Nicole Kempka, studio manager of Yoga Six in Solana Beach, Calif. "Take a few deep breaths when you are feeling overwhelmed, or do a seated cat-cow to stretch the muscles in your upper back and shoulders."

The average price of a yoga class is $12, according to FitnessCostHelper.com. In metropolitan areas, the prices can be substantially higher. For example, at New York City's popular Jivamukti Yoga, single drop-in classes are $22.

However, there are plenty of free yoga classes on YouTube. "Yoga with Tim" and "Yoga with Adriene" are two channels with a lot of well-produced content, including practices of varying lengths and levels of difficulty, short how-to's and 30-day challenges.

MEDITATION

For decades, researchers have studied the benefits of meditation. People who practice meditation experience a notable decrease in anxiety and depression and an increase in feelings of well-being, optimism, relaxation and awareness, according to personal growth website LiveAndDare.com, which compiled data from more than 100 studies on meditation.

Furthermore, it doesn't take long to reap the benefits of meditation. People who participated in an eight-week meditation program showed measurable changes in memory, empathy and stress, according to research by Massachusetts General Hospital.

There are many forms of meditation to choose from based on your taste and level of commitment, and just as many free or low-cost resources. Sabina Hitchen, a small business educator at SabinaKnows.com, said she swears by the Oprah & Deepak 21-Day Meditation Experience.

"I live for their 21-Day Meditation courses. I do them every a.m., and I choose courses that are focused on what I'm in need of at the moment," said Hitchen. "With introductions by Oprah and Deepak leading you through them, they're like hitting a refresh button for your brain." Not every meditation is free, but Hitchen said that registered users are periodically offered access to free series.

"Relieving stress is important to maintain everyday health," said Amy Rice, who is an app pro and the gadget expert at electronics reseller Gazelle.com. "The Stop, Breathe & Think app not only promotes meditation, but also mindfulness and compassion. Another one made for those who find it challenging to make some time for themselves is the Headspace app, which is meant to train users to be more mindful for 10 minutes a day."

BREATHING

We breathe all the time, so how can it help with stress management? It turns out that breathing mindfully can be very beneficial.

"Relaxation techniques, such as deep breathing, can make a big difference in how you feel and how you cope with stress," said Ronit Fallek, director of the Healing Arts Program at Montefiore Health System in New York City's Bronx borough. "Studies show that these techniques can help slow your heart rate, lower your blood pressure, ease muscle tension and improve digestion and sleep."

"Our breathing patterns are directly linked to our nervous system," said Claire Hartley, a yoga teacher and founder of Claire Hartley Yoga in Los Angeles. "Are you finding it hard to concentrate or find a solution to a problem?"

Hartley offered this simple breathing exercise for relaxation:

Close your eyes and ground both of your feet.

Place your focus on your nostrils and relax your jaw.

Breathe in for a count of 4 and breathe out for a count of 6.

Do five rounds of this.

Take note of how your head feels a little clearer.

To explore other breathing exercises and techniques, Montefiore.org offers a variety of guided relaxation tracks on its website. It also has a relaxation hotline with recorded tracks to help callers feel calm. Reach the hotline at (718) 920-CALM (2256).

STRETCHING

Stress is not only bad for our emotional health, it's also detrimental to our physical health. Stress can lead to tense muscles in the neck and shoulders, which can impede the flow of blood to the heart and other areas of the body, according to MD Health.

"If midday stress includes muscle and body tension, stretching is a great (read free!) way to relax," said Amie Hoff, a fitness expert and creator of FitKit fitness kit for home and travel. "Gentle stretches can ease muscle tension, increase blood circulation and connect the mind and body, all of which will relax you in a matter of minutes."

At FitKit.com, you can find free simple stretches for the neck, back and shoulders. Also check out "Yoga with Tim" and "Yoga with Adriene" on YouTube for free guided stretching videos.

CREATIVE EXERCISES

Adult coloring has become very popular in recent years. Walk into any bookstore and you will find numerous books with pages of elaborate black-and-white designs just waiting to be brightened with colored pencils. And there's a reason why coloring is so popular.

"Doing something creative is a great way to relax," Fallek said. "The key is to immerse yourself in an activity that you enjoy—be it painting, singing, photography or doodling. When you lose yourself in an activity, it shifts your focus away from stressful thoughts and allows you to unwind, feel more connected to yourself and have fun."

You can print out free adult coloring pages on sites like Coloring-Pages-Adults.com and Art-Is-Fun.com. To learn how to draw things like human figures and animals, try free tutorials online at sites like MyDrawingTutorials.com or JDHillberryTutorials.com.

GOBankingRates.com is a leading portal for personal finance news and features, offering visitors the latest information on everything from interest rates to strategies on saving money, managing a budget and getting out of debt.

MAYO CLINIC Q&A

Exercise stress test to diagnose heart issues

Dear Mayo Clinic: I have a treadmill stress test scheduled to look for heart disease. I know this involves exercising, and I'm worried that I'm not physically up to it. Is there another way to gather this information?

Yes. There's another way to conduct a heart stress test that doesn't involve exercise. Several drugs can be safely used to mimic the effects of exercise or stress on the heart. This is known as a pharmacological stress imaging study. However, pharmacological stress testing usually is used only when an exercise stress test can't be performed due to exercise-limiting problems, such as musculoskeletal problems or poor lung function, and in instances when the resting electrocardiogram (ECG) has certain baseline abnormalities or is considered to be non-diagnostic.

A treadmill stress test provides information about your heart function during exercise. Because exercise makes your heart pump harder and faster and more vigorously than it does during most daily activities, the test may be able to reveal problems within your heart that might not be noticeable otherwise.

If you can walk for more than five minutes on flat ground or up one to two flights of stairs without needing to stop, you can most likely exercise enough to participate in a treadmill stress test.

Cardiac stress test ECG Tracings DREAMSTIME/TNS)

An exercise stress test is preferable to one using drugs. Compared with a pharmacological stress imaging study, an exercise ECG stress test:

- Provides different information with which to assess the condition of your heart and cardiovascular system
- In addition, it provides health care providers with information on your exercise heart rate, rhythm or any abnormalities—as measured by an ECG. It also enables health care providers to see if exercise reproduces any heart or lung symptoms, and how exercise affects other aspects of your cardiovascular system, such as blood pressure and blood flow. Measures your ability to exercise at varying levels
- It's predictive of cardiac outcomes, and exercise duration is strongly associated with the risk of coronary events and death. Often doesn't require any imaging, such as a cardiac nuclear scan or ECG to be done in conjunction with the test, since the ECG tracings are often sufficiently informative
- Still, imaging studies are frequently performed with an exercise stress test, when needed. Is less expensive and takes less time

In addition, the drugs given to mimic exercise or stress can have side effects of their own. If the treadmill is a barrier—perhaps because of balance issues or knee arthritis—then other forms of exercise often can be substituted. Exercise bikes are often available as alternatives to the treadmill. ***(Mayo Clinic News Network/TNS)***

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We, the wife, children and grandchildren of the late

†JOAQUIN S. TORRES

Lovingly Known as "Jack"

are indeed deeply grateful for the outpouring support, care, kindness, words of comfort and wisdom extended to us during our most difficult time of our lives as we mourn and grief in the passing of our dearly beloved. You all have been our strength in our most trying moments.

Our beloved Jack was welcomed home by our Lord on March 11, 2018. His passing has affected us immensely but we are content knowing that our beloved Jack now dwells in eternal life with our Lord's lovely and promised paradise.

We respectfully thank His Excellency Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez D.D. for presiding over the Mass of Christian Burial. Fr. Kenneth Hezel, SJ for co-celebrating the mass; to our Rosary Techa Dolores S. Moore and the musical choir provided by Margaret C. Dela Cruz and Frank C. Cabrera.

To all our families, relatives and friends, we thank you so much for your acts of kindness and generous helping hands to our family before/during/after the service. It was so comforting to us to know these details were in your hands.

When someone we love passes on beyond life

in the world that we know and is gone,

A beautiful sense of their presence, like music remembered by heart, lingers on...

When someone we love finds a wonderful home in a world only faith can reveal,

Our memories can be like a song in the heart,

With the power to comfort and heal.

Author Unknown

Dianne, Children and Grandchildren

Life & Style

Former Playboy model says Trump tried to pay her after sex

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A former Playboy model apologized to first lady Melania Trump for a 10-month affair she claims she had with President Donald Trump that started with him offering her money after the first time they had sex.

During an interview with CNN's Anderson Cooper that aired Thursday night, Karen McDougal said Trump tried to pay her after their first sexual tryst at a bungalow at the Beverly Hills Hotel in 2006.

"Well, after we had been intimate, he, he tried to pay me. And I actually didn't know how to take that," she said. "But I looked at him and I said, 'That's not me. I'm not that kind of girl.'"

She cried on the way home and didn't think she would see him again, but agreed to go on other dates with him after he called her back, she said. McDougal repeatedly described Trump as "very charming" and "sweet."

McDougal said she continued the relationship with Trump for about 10 months and broke it off in April 2007 because she felt guilty. She recalled traveling to meet Trump at his properties in New York, New Jersey and California and said she had sex with him "many dozens of times."

McDougal had feelings for Trump, but the affair was "just tearing me apart," she said.

"There was a real relationship there. There were real feelings," she said. "He would call me baby or he would call me beautiful Karen."

Trump married his current wife, Melania Trump, in 2005, and their son, Barron, was born in 2006.

Speaking to CNN—which her attorney has said would be her only interview about the relationship—McDougal apologized when she was asked what she would say to Melania Trump.

"What can you say except, I'm sorry?" McDougal said. "I'm sorry. I wouldn't want it done to me."

McDougal said she never wanted to discuss her relationship and repeatedly rebuffed inquiries from reporters about the alleged affair. But after the story became public, she wanted to get out and tell her side of what happened, she said.

The White House has said Trump denies having an affair with McDougal and did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the interview Thursday night.

On Tuesday, she filed a lawsuit in Los Angeles against the company that owns the supermarket tabloid National Enquirer, which she said paid her $150,000 during the presidential campaign for the rights to her story of an affair, but never ran the story.

McDougal's lawsuit, which asks a judge to invalidate the contract, alleges that Trump's attorney, Michael Cohen, was secretly involved in her discussions with the tabloid's parent company, American Media, Inc.

The company has said that McDougal has been allowed to speak about her relationship since 2016 and the contract gave them discretion over whether to publish the story.

Suit settled in death of Anton Yelchin, actor crushed by SUV

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The parents of Anton Yelchin have reached a settlement with the makers of the Jeep Grand Cherokee, the SUV that crushed and killed the "Star Trek" actor in his driveway in 2016.

The confidential settlement agreement between Victor and Irina Yelchin and Fiat Chrysler was filed this week in Los Angeles Superior Court.

Fiat Chrysler said in a statement Thursday that it is "pleased that we've reached an amicable resolution in this matter" and that the car company continues to "extend our deepest sympathies to the Yelchin family for their tragic loss."

Messages left for Yelchin family attorney Gary Dordick were not immediately returned.

Yelchin

The actor was killed at age 27 when his 2015 Cherokee rolled backward down a driveway of his Los Angeles home, pinning him between a mailbox and a security fence.

"Anton Yelchin was crushed and lingered alive for some time, trapped and suffocating until his death," the lawsuit stated.

The Cherokee model was among 1.1 million vehicles recalled about two months earlier when regulators said its gear shifters were confusing drivers, causing the SUVs to roll away unexpectedly and leading to dozens of injuries.

The wrongful death and product liability lawsuit alleged that those gear selectors were the cause of the actor's death.

"In spite of our unbelievable grief, we decided to come here to prevent other families from the same tragedy," Victor Yelchin said when the lawsuit was filed.

Anton Yelchin had dozens of film and television credits that included voices for the "Smurfs" movies and the Netflix TV show "Trollhunters," but is probably best known as Pavel Chekov in the rebooted "Star Trek" movie franchise.

'Roseanne' revival aims to keep it real, Trump included

By LYNN ELBER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

AP

In this image released by ABC, Roseanne Barr, left, and John Goodman appear in a scene from the reboot of "Roseanne," premiering on Tuesday at 8 p.m. EST.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Roseanne Barr looks spiffier, John Goodman slimmer. But the mass-market plaid couch is a giveaway that ABC's "Roseanne" revival hasn't ditched its roots.

The blue-collar Conner family and the times in which they live are at the heart of the reboot, just as they were for the hit 1988-97 sitcom inspired by Barr's stand-up comedy. The new "Roseanne" debuts 8 p.m. EDT Tuesday with an hour-long episode.

The prospect of updating the comedy was exciting "as long as we were permitted to tell relevant and authentic stories" about working-class characters, said Tom Werner, a producer for both shows.

That focus, noteworthy in the '80s when the show entered a relatively small TV universe, is still rare despite the swarm of broadcast, cable and streaming shows.

Profitability aside, the industry has scant artistic regard for such fare. "Roseanne" failed to earn a best sitcom Emmy in its long run, joining snubbed shows about the non-affluent including "Married with Children" and "The Middle." (Barr and "Roseanne" co-star Laurie Metcalf received acting trophies.)

"It's shocking that 'Roseanne' was never even nominated for best comedy series at the Emmys despite winning the Golden Globe for best comedy, a Peabody and being in the top 10 Nielsen ratings year after year," said Tom O'Neil, author of "The Emmys" and editor of the Gold Derby awards website.

But the show's perspective may carry more weight today.

The 2016 presidential campaign "was a wake-up call in that there were a large group of voters who were frustrated with the status quo" and being sidelined by the economy, Werner said. "What we're interested in doing is just telling honest stories about a family that's up against it."

Q&A: At 91, the droll Cloris Leachman isn't slowing down yet

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Cloris Leachman is 91-years-old and still as busy as ever in Hollywood.

The Oscar and multiple Emmy-winner has a hit movie out, the faith-based film "I Can Only Imagine," about the story behind the MercyMe song of the same name. It has earned over $22 million in just six days of release on a $7 million budget.

Leachman spoke to The Associated Press Thursday about the film, the unlikely role she's most proud of (it's not "The Last Picture Show"), and her plans to keep working.

Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: Congratulations on the success of "I Can Only Imagine." Was that a surprise for you this weekend?

LEACHMAN: The whole thing is a surprise.

AP: Why did you want to do this film?

LEACHMAN: Oh, it isn't like that at all. You're given a movie with the time of yours, you know what you're doing, and you can do it and the time and money and who's in it, blah, blah, blah. And you say yes. You're not sitting around in a living room with a pile of scripts high up to your eyebrows.

AP: I was a little surprised, knowing that you identify as an atheist and this is a Christian-themed movie.

LEACHMAN: I am an atheist, absolutely. But I really think it is wonderful that there are gods for people who need them. We all believe in something. It's something or nothing. If you believe in nothing you believe in something. I think it's wonderful that they build a place where we can come and be there together. It's got a lot of good things about it.

AP: You have such impressive stamina, how do you maintain your energy?

LEACHMAN: I've always been sort of interested in health since I was a little girl. It's just what I reach for.

AP: What do you think of the roles that come your way?

LEACHMAN: I'm quite excited about them, I think they're wonderful.

AP: Anything you look for in particular?

LEACHMAN: No, just whatever comes. I once played a woman from North England in World War I who took her little baby from the hospital two days after it was born because it was going to die. Its eyes had been removed, it didn't have anything, anything. She just looked at that baby and summoned God's love and said tell me something to do. That little boy, one night she went to turn the television off ... and she went down there and it wasn't on and she eventually went to the room that was right next to her little boy's room and she had gotten an old piano just to tinker with. He was playing Rachmaninov, or, no it was, who was the pianist who is very gay? Oh, you know.

AP: I'm not sure.

LEACHMAN: Oh, just tell me who you think.

AP: I don't think I'll be able to guess.

LEACHMAN: Liberace. He was playing his theme song the way Liberace played it. He had never played a note in his life. And he began then playing on the radio. Oh my god, that was the most wonderful thing I've ever done I think. I knew what to do even before I did it. Even before the director. I just knew. It was one of those things that's just human to me.

(Editor's Note: The film Leachman is referring to is a 1983 ABC afterschool special "The Woman Who Willed a Miracle" about Leslie Lemke.)

AP: Do you keep in touch with some of your friends from...

LEACHMAN: No, no.

AP: You gave a very funny toast to Betty White recently at the Publicist's Guild Awards. Can you tell me a little bit about what went into that?

LEACHMAN: Well they put her and me together for some reason or another (laughs). We're both in our 90s. We're not friends, we don't even know each other.

AP: You don't? You don't stay in touch?

LEACHMAN: No, never.

AP: What about people like Mel Brooks and Peter Bogdanovich?

LEACHMAN: We love each other but we don't ever talk. Unless we're together for some reason or another.

AP: Do you wish that were different?

LEACHMAN: No, it's fine, I have a big family.

AP: What inspires you to keep working?

LEACHMAN: This is what I do. I love it. I just love it. It's very exciting.

AP: Do you think good roles exist for older actresses or does it start to taper off at a certain point?

LEACHMAN: Well, I think it's tapering off now. I'm in my 90s and everybody knows it.

AP: You've said before that you didn't have plans to retire, is that still the case?

LEACHMAN: Yes.

AP: What are some other roles that you're most proud of?

LEACHMAN: Well this one. Not this one. I didn't even know what this was about really. They tell me about it and I go oh yes, I guess that's right. I had to go to the church and act like I was very moved by it.

AP: That's why you're a good actress.

LEACHMAN: I would have been better had I known!

Jim Parsons says he's fortunate to have worked with Hawking

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jim Parsons cherished the opportunity to work with Stephen Hawking, but admitted he was a bit intimidated to meet the celebrated theoretical physicist.

Hawking or his voice appeared in seven episodes of Parsons' hit series "The Big Bang Theory."

"So much of our show is related, based on, adjacent to everything that Stephen Hawking did, strove to do, thought about, was passionate about through his entire life and career. The fact that he knew of our show, was interested in being on it, was willing to come play with us group of monkeys for a couple days was really moving," said Parson.

"It was just, it was an amazing experience. It was an intimidating one. I'd be lying if I said I was comfortable. ... To get to finally meet him was, it was just overwhelming," he continued. "And it's one of the things that's kind of bittersweet in a way because once he's passed now and now we're talking about him, it really hammers home how fortunate I was to get to be with him.

"At the time, it was just like this is neat and I know it's neat intellectually, but emotionally all I can think of is 'I want to get out of here before I embarrass myself,'" Parsons said.

Hawking, who died March 14 at age 76, became the public face of science genius. He also appeared on "Star Trek: The Next Generation" and voiced himself in "The Simpsons."

"His willingness to be part of our world, to come and be part of our show, was an extraordinary acknowledgement ... it felt like maybe we were doing something worthwhile that he would agree to participate, you know? He first was on the show six years ago and it was hard to believe this is really happening, you know? We were really lucky. We got to work and spend time with Stephen Hawking. I mean how blessed is that? How fortunate can you get?" said "Big Bang" executive producer Chuck Lorre.

AP

Jim Parsons, a cast member in the television series "The Big Bang Theory," gestures to photographers during the 35th annual PaleyFest at the Dolby Theatre on Wednesday, March 21, 2018, in Los Angeles.

Chris Evans may not return as Captain America

NEW YORK (AP)—The actor who plays Captain America may be ready to hang up his shield.

Evans

Chris Evans tells The New York Times he has no plans to return to the Marvel movie franchise after reshoots of the fourth "Avengers" movie later this year. Evans says "you want to get off the train before they push you off."

The movie has yet to be titled and is expected to be released in 2019.

Evans has played the role since "Captain America: The First Avenger" in 2011.

The actor is making his Broadway debut as a police officer in "Lobby Hero," which is scheduled to open March 26.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Prince Harry, Meghan tour N. Ireland; wedding china on sale

LONDON (AP)—Prince Harry and Meghan Markle made a surprise visit to Northern Ireland on Friday as part of their pre-wedding tour of the United Kingdom. The trip was not announced ahead of time in keeping with security procedures used for royal travel to Northern Ireland. Kensington Palace officials said the couple would meet with young people and other members of the public and would also tour some of Belfast's most popular sites. They had lunch at the popular Crown Liquor Saloon, a landmark in central Belfast. As they toured Northern Ireland, approved commemorative china marking the couple's May 19 wedding went on sale Friday. The china is finished in 22 carat gold. It was made by hand in Stoke-on-Trent, 160 miles (260 kilometers) northwest of London, using traditional methods. Profits will go to the Royal Collection Trust charity.

Gone extinct: Animatronic T-Rex bursts into flames

CANON CITY, Colo. (AP)—The co-owner of a dinosaur-themed park in southern Colorado thinks an electrical malfunction caused a life-size animatronic Tyrannosaurus Rex to burst into flames. Zach Reynolds says the T-Rex at the Royal Gorge Dinosaur Experience smoldered for about 10 minutes before it caught fire Thursday morning. Visitors watched as the inferno spread through the dinosaur, which appeared at times to be breathing flames. Reynolds joked, "We knew he had a temper, but today he blew his top." The 24-foot-tall (7-meter-tall) T-Rex, which moved and made sounds, was one of 16 dinosaurs that line the park's Wild Walk exhibit. Reynolds says it was a total loss but at least "it made for some spectacular imagery along the way." He hopes to have a replacement T-Rex installed by the summer.

US Postal Service unveils Mister Rogers postage stamp

PITTSBURGH (AP) — It was a beautiful day to honor Mister Rogers with a postage stamp. The U.S. Postal Service on Friday released a stamp featuring Fred Rogers, the gentle TV host who entertained and educated generations of preschoolers on "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood." The stamp pictures Rogers in his trademark cardigan along with King Friday, a puppet character from the show's Neighborhood of Make-Believe sketch. A dedication ceremony was held at the Pittsburgh studio where Rogers filmed his beloved PBS show, which aired between 1968 and 2001. Rogers died in 2003 at age 74. Among those attending were Rogers' widow, Joanne, and David Newell, who played Mr. McFeely, the deliveryman on "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood."

NYC firefighter killed on movie set promoted posthumously

NEW YORK (AP) — A firefighter who was killed battling a fire on a New York City movie set has been posthumously promoted to lieutenant. Mayor Bill de Blasio and Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro announced firefighter Michael Davidson's promotion on Saturday. Davidson died early Friday after suffering severe smoke inhalation in the burning basement of a Harlem building where the movie "Motherless Brooklyn" was being filmed. The film adaptation of the Jonathan Lethem novel of the same name stars Edward Norton, Bruce Willis, Willem Dafoe and Alec Baldwin. Davidson was a 15-year Fire Department veteran with a wife and four young children. NIgro called Davidson "a natural-born leader" and said his promotion to lieutenant was well-deserved. Davidson had passed the test for lieutenant in 2015 and was on the list for promotion.

Despite their divorce, ex-wife treats man like a best friend

DEAR ABBY: My ex-wife and I were married for 29 years. Then she had an affair with a co-worker's husband. Now that we're divorced, she thinks we should be the best of friends!

If she has car, money or any other type of problems, she thinks I should help her. In the divorce, I kept the home, the furnishings, etc. She left with only a few things that were her mother's and her clothing.

She drops by unannounced, and wants to visit or watch television. I'm baffled. If she wanted out of the marriage and to have nothing to do with me, why is she still in my life? Granted, we have two daughters. One is 22, and the other, who is 10, lives with her.

She texts me about how her day has been, or if she's having problems at work or in life in general. I have been kind to her, not wanting to put too much stress on my youngest child. What should I do?

CONFUSED IN TEXAS

DEAR CONFUSED: Your ex is no longer your life companion. She shouldn't be acting as if you are.

Have an honest conversation with her and create some boundaries. She should not assume she can drop by unannounced and expect you to solve her problems or comment on her day. Tell her you need your space and not to drop by without calling first because you may be busy or going out.

You can still be a loving and involved father to your 10-year-old without doing anything more than co-parenting with your ex, but only if you draw the line.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 13 and I have a boyfriend, "Donald." We have a strong relationship for someone our age. My friends all say they can't see us breaking up. I'm not sure about this though.

The problem is, his mom recently invited me to dinner. And I had to turn the offer down. You see, I'm not allowed to date, and if my parents knew, I'd be switched to an all-girls boarding school. I always feel like I'm letting Donald down because his mom has made this offer more than once. He has never once complained, but I have no clue what to do.

CLUELESS TEEN

DEAR CLUELESS TEEN: Here's what you do. Be totally truthful. Ask Donald to explain to his mother that as much as you would like to come to dinner, you cannot do that because your parents feel you are too young to date. Then take a rain check until your parents meet Donald and agree that it's all right for you to see him and accept his mother's invitation.

DEAR ABBY: The world is changing quickly thanks to the digital technology available to us. We all understand the importance of an RSVP, attendance at a celebration and a gift to the host on a mailed-out invitation. What do you think about Facebook invitations to wedding receptions, graduation parties, etc.? Most are sent out to masses of friends on the person's friends list. Do you consider those to be official invitations, requiring an RSVP, attendance and gift?

WAITING FOR MY SNAIL MAIL

DEAR WAITING: Regardless of how the invitation is delivered, the polite response is to accept or refuse and not keep the sender hanging. If you choose to attend, a gift would be in order if the occasion requires one.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

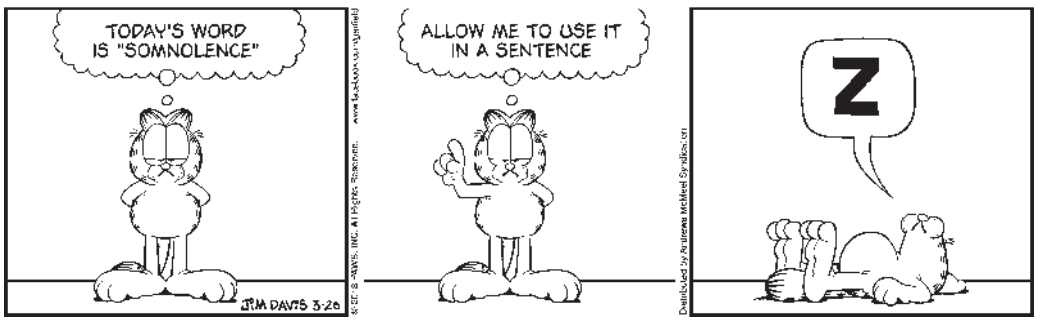
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

LIGHTNING FLASHES! THUNDER RUMBLES ACROSS THE SKY!
HORRIBLY, CALVIN HAS BEEN SEWN TOGETHER FROM CORPSES! A POWER SURGE FORCES BLOOD TO HIS BRAIN!
HE'S...HE'S ALIVE!
WELL, LOOK WHO'S UP AND ABOUT.
HELLO, SLEEPYHEAD.

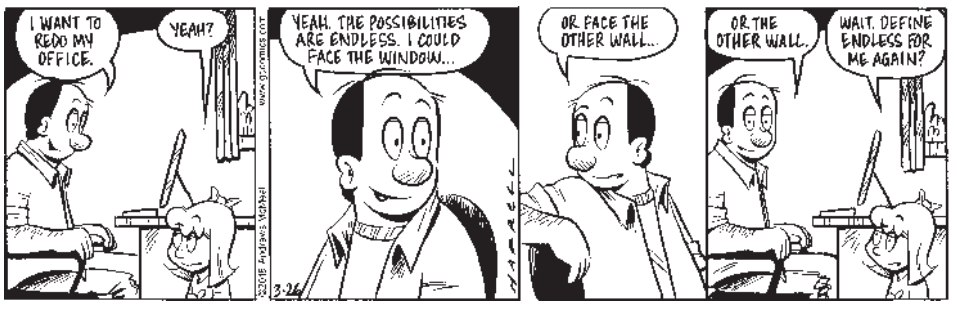
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I WANT TO REDO MY OFFICE.
YEAH?
YEAH. THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS. I COULD FACE THE WINDOW...
OR FACE THE OTHER WALL...
OR THE OTHER WALL.
WAIT. DEFINE ENDLESS FOR ME AGAIN?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

FIRST PRACTICE OF THE SEASON AND YOU STRUCK OUT.
I'VE BEEN WORKING SO HARD, TOO!
I, FOR ONE, ADMIRE ALL THE WORK YOU'VE PUT IN.
YEAH- I PLAYED MORE BASEBALL VIDEO GAMES THIS WINTER THAN EVER!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

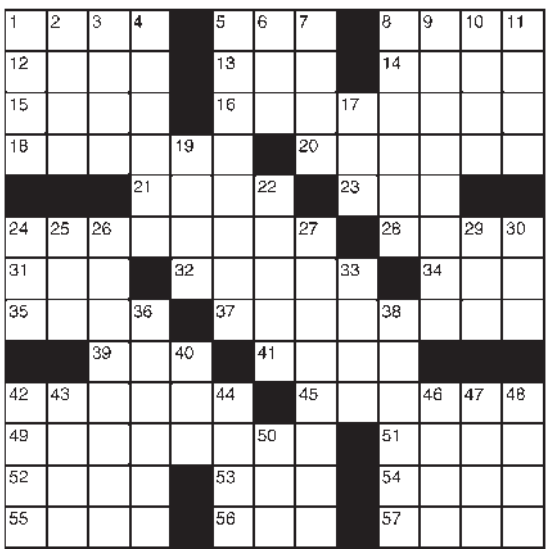
ACROSS
1 PC picture
5 Young fellow
8 Pac-12 team
12 Apple center
13 — pro nobis
14 Lunch hour
15 Ornamental jug
16 Unprepared
18 Bratislava resident
20 Flavors
21 Prior nights
23 For each
24 Football infractions
28 Finito
31 Mauna —
32 Razor sharpener
34 Feedbag tidbit
35 Lairs
37 Freeway exits
39 Tax prep pro
41 Swedish auto
42 Merriment
45 Secondary route
49 Cream or eggshell
51 Car bar
52 Verifiable
53 Knee protector
54 Takeout order?
55 Contain
56 "Mayday!"
57 Author Bagnold

DOWN
1 Frozen desserts
2 Monk's hood
3 Twistable cookie
4 — of steel (steady courage)
5 Relied on
6 Canine cry
7 Loony
8 New
9 Hat-checker's chamber
10 Traditional tales
11 &&&&
17 Opening
19 Hertz rival
22 Feudal farmers
24 — Faithful
25 Nemesis
26 Imaginary
27 Sleepers for house-guests
29 Snooze
30 UFO crew
33 Use a rosary
36 Gushed
38 Rub the wrong way
40 Sports fig.
42 Ancient invader of Rome
43 Roundish 'do
44 Shrill barks
46 Yoked team
47 "That's — need to know"
48 Monopoly card
50 Eastern "way"

Solution time: 26 mins.

B	A	H		S	U	R	F		P	F	A	L
A	G	E		I	B	A	R		I	O	T	A
T	L	R	N	D	O	W	N		A	S	A	P
S	E	R	E	N	A		E	I	N			
			V	E	T		S	T	O	P	B	Y
P	A	L	E	Y		R	T	E		E	R	A
O	V	E	R		G	O	O		D	R	A	W
D	E	N		A	R	T		P	O	K	E	S
S	C	A	M	P	I		W	I	N			
			O	E	D		O	C	U	L	U	S
C	H	I	C		D	O	W	N	T	U	R	N
P	U	S	H		L	I	I		I	D	A	
A	G	H	A		E	L	E	C		S	U	P

Last Friday's Answer 03-26



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Keira Knightley, 33; Kenny Chesney, 50; Martin Short, 68; Steven Tyler, 70.

Happy Birthday: Opportunities will not turn into successes unless you are disciplined and willing to work diligently to make things happen. Stay focused on what you can accomplish this year. Tidy up loose ends and make a clear passage to a brighter future. Be creative in the ways you approach money, legal and medical issues. Good fortune comes through persistence and patience. Your numbers are 5, 9, 16, 21, 27, 34, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Embrace change, and be willing to put a positive spin on whatever comes your way. Trust your instincts and question anyone trying to push you in a direction that doesn't suit you. Personal growth and physical fitness are encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You may want to keep your grievances to yourself. Being too opinionated will get a rise that will turn into a messy debate. Make accomplishment your goal by learning and achieving, not being critical and negative. Keep the peace. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* You can talk your way into and out of anything, but before you decide to exaggerate or mislead someone, you should consider whom you are dealing with. Someone will call your bluff and hold you to a promise you make. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Refuse to let anyone undermine you when it comes to spending or investing your money. Be creative and do your own thing. Explore your options, and don't settle for anything less than what you want, regardless of peer pressure. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Share your thoughts and live life to the fullest. Spend time with people you find stimulating and who push you to be a better person. Revamp your image and live in the moment. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Embrace your creativity and venture in a direction that will stimulate your imagination. Express what you feel and what you want to see happen, but listen to alternative thoughts. Process the information thoroughly before you make a choice. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You'll have trouble avoiding discord. Either you'll say too much, or someone else will. Do your best to put charm, along with understanding and mindfulness, first if someone wants to discuss sensitive issues. Choose love and keeping the peace over bedlam. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Refrain from taking on too much or underestimating a situation. Use your creative insight to come up with a plan that is within your budget, and take pride in what you can do. Say no to excessive behavior and bad habits. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* You may face some opposition, but your desire to bring about changes to the way you live or the activities you get involved in will outweigh what anyone says. Live in the moment and enjoy your adventure. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Chill out and relax. If you let others' actions get to you, it will be difficult to avoid an argument. Do your own thing, upgrade your skills and consider new ways to bring in more cash. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Looking back at the way you have handled people in the past will give you greater insight into how best to deal with similar situations. Don't feel you have to go overboard or make changes to accommodate someone else. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Make a change or move because you want to, not because you think someone else wants you to do so. It's important you let your true feelings be heard if you want to be happy and fulfill your dreams. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are pioneering, intelligent and motivated. You are aggressive and lively.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			6		7			
	3	8				2	5	
	5		8		2		1	
7		1		4		3		5
			3	6	1			
2		3		9		1		6
	8		5		9		2	
	1	9				8	7	
			1		3			

Difficulty Level ★ 3/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

7	9	1	5	2	4	6	8	3
4	6	2	1	3	8	9	5	7
3	8	5	6	7	9	1	2	4
9	3	7	8	6	2	5	4	1
2	1	8	7	4	5	3	6	9
6	5	4	9	1	3	8	7	2
1	4	6	3	8	7	2	9	5
8	2	9	4	5	1	7	3	6
5	7	3	2	9	6	4	1	8

Difficulty level ★★★★ 3/24

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

'BLACK PANTHER' (FILM) Solution: 9 letters

M	B	N	C	O	O	(G)	L	E	R	S	Y	A	M	D
B	A	C	A	K	K	(N)	E	K	F	H	D	D	A	R
A	S	R	O	Y	I	(I)	I	U	O	U	N	N	R	E
K	S	Y	V	L	R	(K)	N	D	R	R	A	A	T	D
U	E	F	R	E	E	M	A	N	E	I	N	K	I	L
B	T	B	A	U	L	Y	D	G	S	O	I	A	N	E
O	T	R	M	A	O	C	U	B	T	L	A	W	T	E
J	E	O	O	L	V	R	O	S	L	T	K	C	D	E
N	R	W	N	K	I	S	N	M	I	C	H	A	E	L
Y	E	N	D	R	E	I	O	P	I	A	I	K	A	N
O	V	L	A	M	W	N	U	W	L	C	I	I	L	A
N	E	B	A	D	G	L	D	L	R	R	S	R	S	T
G	A	N	N	E	R	A	A	I	B	A	K	W	U	S
O	D	O	R	A	H	O	A	Y	U	U	L	A	K	Z
A	K	A	H	C	T	E	J	A	L	I	M	I	U	M

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Andy, Ayo, Bassett, Boseman, Brown, Chadwick, Cole, Coogler, Danai, Daniel, Deals, Dora, Duke, Elder, Erik, Everett, Forest, Freeman, Gurira, Heal, Jordan, Kaluuya, Killmonger, King, Kirby, Klaue, Lupita, Martin, Marvel Comics, M'Baku, Michael, Milaje, Nakia, N'Jobu, Nyong'o, Okoye, Ramonda, Ryan, Shuri, Stan Lee, T'Chaka, T'Challa, Wakanda, Winston, W'Kabi, Zuri

Last Friday's Answer: Power Plant

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS JUDICIARY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP18-JUDICIARY-02

SUBMISSION DATE: April 25, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT SERVICES RE: OPINION AND REVIEW OF FINANCIAL FEASIBILITY REPORT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, DOOR #5, LOCATED AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/S/ JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-OVR-068

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 12, 2018 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) POWER WHEELCHAIRS FOR THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION"

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THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RGITH TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ARLENE KAY A. YAMAGATA
DIRECTOR OF OVR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF P&S

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859 • Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. GEORGE R. RABAULIMAN, Defendant.
) Civil Action No. 16-0222
) **AMENDED SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT, GEORGE R. RABAULIMAN:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to file any answer you wish to make to the COMPLAINT FOR FORECLOSURE, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within Twenty (20) Days after service of this Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950 , or as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your Attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint for Foreclosure.

Dated on this 21st day of November, 2017

/S/ Cherk of Court/Deputy Clerk

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: Scuba Diving Instructor (Self-Enrichment Educational Teachers) x1

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Job Duties: Teach, instruct, and guide scuba diving activities to individuals or groups at public or private facilities. Explains & demonstrates the basic of scuba diving & teaches the proper use of diving equipments. Conduct certification classes to achieve proficiency in diving. Supervise other scuba diving instructors. May assist customers at Employer's outdoor sports retail shop, and do other related duties as assigned. **Requirements:** Minimum 1 year of work experience as scuba diving instructor. Must be a PADI or NAUI certified, licensed Scuba Diving Instructor. Must be able to speak, read and write Japanese language enough to teach and instruct scuba diving to tourists and regulars from Japan, that dominate the nationality of the Company's customers. **Compensations:** Workers' Compensation & scuba diving instructor insurance provided.

Please send your resume with a copy of your diving instructor license, or your inquiry by e-mail or fax to:

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Thomas enters semifinals, closes in on No. 1

AUSTIN, TEXAS (AP)—Justin Thomas was on antibiotics when he arrived in Texas and mustered enough strength for a short practice round that left him wondering how long he would last in the Dell Technologies Match Play, if at all.

"I had a pretty serious conversation with my dad on Monday if I was going to play," Thomas said. "There were probably 15 or so people that watched me play nine holes. You find those 15 people and see if they thought I was ready to play in a golf tournament. Some of the shots I hit were pretty funny."

His health improved. So has his golf.

And now Thomas is one match away from reaching No. 1 in the world and having a shot at his first World Golf Championships title.

Thomas made quick work of Si Woo Kim to win on the 13th hole Saturday morning, and then he pulled away from Kyle Stanley in the afternoon by winning three straight holes to start the back nine that carried him to a 2-and-1 victory.

Now he has a clear path—and a familiar one for Bubba Watson—to replace Dustin Johnson at No. 1 in the world.

Johnson didn't win a match this week and will not get any world ranking points. That means Thomas only has to beat Watson in the semifinals Sunday morning to become the seventh American to top the world ranking.

"I don't care when it happens," Thomas said about going to No. 1. "I just hope it happens, and it happens for a while."

It's only fitting Watson stands in his way.

Watson outlasted Brian Harman in a battle of Georgia southpaws and then won five of six holes to start the back nine to beat Kiradech Aphibarnrat, 5 and 3. That put him in the semifinals for the first time since his Match Play debut in 2011 when it was in Arizona.

That was the year the reigning PGA champion—Martin Kaymer—only had to beat Watson to reach No. 1 in the world. Kaymer won with an 8-foot par on the 18th hole.

"I guess I'm good at that," Watson said. "If you want No. 1, just beat me, and you'll be No. 1."

Alex Noren extended his run at Austin Country Club by winning for the ninth time in his last 10 matches. His only loss was to Johnson a year ago in the quarterfinals, and he needed only 31 holes to beat Patrick Reed and Cameron Smith of Australia.

Noren and Thomas are the only semifinalists who have not lost a match this week.

Kevin Kisner reached the semifinals with a big putt and a big blowout. He made a birdie on the 18th hole to beat Matt Kuchar, and then matched the shortest match of the week with an 8-and-6 victory over Ian Poulter, who was disappointed for more than just losing.

"Probably didn't see that one coming," Kisner said. "I thought it was going to be a difficult match. Obviously, Ian's match-play record speaks for itself. I got off to a good start making a few birdies. He made a few mistakes, and I was able to capitalize on those. And things just snowballed from there."

AP

Justin Thomas chips to the seventh green during round four at the Dell Technologies Match Play golf tournament, Saturday, March 24, 2018, in Austin, Texas.

Poulter was told after he beat Louis Oosthuizen in the morning that reaching the quarterfinals was enough for him to be in the top 50 at the end of the week, which would get him into the Masters. Moments later, he received a text that he needed to win his match against Kisner.

"I gave him no fight at all. It was rubbish," said Poulter, who didn't make a birdie.

The misinformation wasn't to blame, though it clearly added to an all-around bad day at the office.

"Next time I won't listen to other people. I'll do my bit and focus better," Poulter said. "I mean, I can't put that down as an excuse. It would be an excuse if I said it. So it's disappointing to be given the wrong information, but that wasn't part of this afternoon."

Kisner faces Noren, whom he knows from their college days—Kisner at Georgia, Noren at Oklahoma State.

Thomas (No. 2) and Noren (No. 13) are the only top seeds from the 16 groups who advanced to the semifinals.

Noren has had a pair of close calls this year, losing in a playoff at Torrey Pines and finishing one shot out of a playoff that Thomas won at the Honda Classic.

Thomas knows what he's up against. Watson, who won last month at Riviera, is looking very much like the two-time Masters champion again.

Watson has played the 18th hole just one time this week, a halve with Julian Suri that allowed him to avoid a playoff to advance. Reaching the semifinals was bittersweet in one respect—he was to leave the country Sunday morning for a family vacation.

Man City, Man United join Neymar race

PARIS (AP)—Is Neymar heading to the Premier League?

Spanish outlet Mundo Deportivo is reporting that both Manchester City and Manchester United have joined Real Madrid in the race to try and sign Neymar, with the report stating that Real remain the favorites to sign the striker if he leaves Paris Saint-Germain.

The Brazilian superstar, 26, only joined PSG in the summer of 2017 from Barcelona for a world-record fee of $274 million but rumblings continue that he is unhappy with life in France and wants to either move back to Spain or, as it now appears, the Premier League.

Per the report, Man City and Pep Guardiola are huge fans of Neymar and are keen to sign him in the summer of 2019 with the commercial gain for signing such a star obvious. Manchester United are also said to be very interested in bringing Neymar to PSG, if he's available.

When you think about where Neymar would fit into any of the three aforementioned squads, it would certainly suggest that other big names would have to depart for him to arrive.

But if you're bringing in Neymar and spending the big bucks to pry him away from PSG, he's going to be your main man.

At Man City he would perhaps play centrally with Sergio Aguero moved on in the next 12 months or so, with Leroy Sane and Raheem Sterling supporting him in attack. At Manchester United he could play off Romelu Lukaku alongside Alexis Sanchez as both Manchester clubs would give him a chance to be the key man in a powerful attacking trio. The same will happen at Real Madrid, but Cristiano Ronaldo sticking around could complicate matters, while the futures of Gareth Bale and Karim Benzema seem to lie elsewhere beyond this season.

Sure, it may not be the same as Neymar playing alongside Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez during their treble-winning season at Barca in 2014-15 for Neymar but he would have the chance to replicate that kind of partnership at both City and United, while at Real he'd likely be the gem in a massive attacking rebuild.

The only flip side to Neymar's obvious talents on the pitch is the circus that comes with him off it. At PSG it is believed he already has way too much power at the club and his many advisers, plus his sponsorship commitments, could create plenty of distractions.

Is that a risk worth taking? Real, City and United would think yes as Neymar delivered 28 goals in 30 games in his debut season at PSG before having his season ended through injury as he now prepares to be fully fit for the 2018 World Cup this summer.

Real still appear to be the frontrunners to sign Neymar in 2019 and they hold the ace in this deal with Ronaldo perhaps ready to move on for the final years of his career. If PSG could get Ronaldo and serious cash from Real for Neymar, they have to do that deal, right?

Seahawks sign Tom Johnson, bring back Marcus Smith

RENTON, Washington (AP)—The Seattle Seahawks added needed depth on their defensive line by signing veteran defensive tackle Tom Johnson and bringing back defensive end Marcus Smith.

The Seahawks are thin up front with the trade of Michael Bennett to Philadelphia and the loss of Sheldon Richardson in free agency. Johnson provides the Seahawks a solid veteran at defensive tackle who played on one of the premier defenses in the NFL last season.

Johnson started 15 games for Minnesota in 2017 when the Vikings led the NFL in total defense and scoring defense. Johnson joined the Vikings in 2014 after three seasons with New Orleans. He had 32 tackles and two sacks last year for the Vikings while playing the third-most snaps of any of Minnesota's defensive linemen.

Smith was signed by Seattle last summer after the former first-round pick was a bust with Philadelphia. Smith appeared in 14 games and had 15 tackles and 2 + sacks.

In Georgia, the Atlanta Falcons have added depth at cornerback and a three-time Pro Bowl player on special teams by signing Justin Bethel, who played his first six seasons with Arizona.

The 27-year-old Bethel joins guard Brandon Fusco and tight end Logan Paulsen as Atlanta's top free-agent additions. The Falcons have focused on re-signing their own players while hoping to work out an extension for quarterback Matt Ryan, who can be a free agent after the 2018 season.

Bethel had a combined four interceptions the past three seasons with the Cardinals and returned three for touchdowns.

Bethel has avoided serious injuries with Arizona, playing in all 16 games in each of his six seasons.

In Arizona, the Cardinals have traded veteran offensive tackle Jared Veldheer to the Denver Broncos in exchange for a sixth-round pick in this year's draft.

The 30-year-old Veldheer, at 6-foot-8 and 322 pounds, started 53 games in four seasons with Arizona after coming to the team from Oakland, where he spent his first four NFL campaigns. Veldheer played left tackle the first four seasons and switched to the right side last year.

Loyola's shocking run reaches Final Four

AP
Loyola-Chicago guard Ben Richardson (14) is fouled by Tennessee guard Lamonte Turner during the second half of a second-round game at the NCAA men's college basketball tournament in Dallas, Saturday, March 17, 2018.

ATLANTA (AP)—Porter Moser stood in front of the scarf-clad Loyola cheering section, a bit dazed but beaming from ear to ear.

"Are you kidding me! Are you kidding me," the Ramblers coach screamed over and over.

No kidding.

Loyola is headed to the Final Four .

An improbable NCAA Tournament took its craziest turn yet Saturday night, when Ben Richardson scored a career-high 23 points and the 11th-seeded Ramblers romped to a 78-62 victory over Kansas State to cap off a stunning run through the bracket-busting South Regional.

The Ramblers (32-5) matched the lowest-seeded team ever to reach the Final Four, joining LSU (1986), George Mason (2006) and VCU (2011). Those other three all lost in the national semifinals.

Don't bet against Loyola, which emerged from a regional that produced a staggering array of upsets. The South became the first regional in tournament history to have the top four seeds -- including overall No. 1 Virginia—knocked out on the opening weekend.

In the end, it was the Ramblers cutting down the nets.

After three close calls, this one was downright easy.

"We believed that we could do something like this—do something really special- because we knew we had such good chemistry and we've got such a good group," said Richardson, who was named MVP of the regional. "Everyone would say we were crazy. If we said this was going to happen, people would call us crazy, but you've just got to believe."

No one believes more than their 98-year-old team chaplain, Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt , who led a prayer in the locker room before the game. Later, she was pushed onto the court in her wheelchair to join the celebration when it was done.

Sister Jean donned a Final Four cap—she even turned it around backward, just to show she's hip to the kids—and gave a gleeful thumbs-up.

She's already looking forward to a bigger game next weekend.

"I'm going to San Antonio," she said. "That's going to be great.

Michigan nips Florida St

In Los Angeles, Moe Wagner climbed the ladder, snipped the final strand and whipped the net around his head while thousands of Michigan's West Coast fans roared.

The Wolverines hadn't caused much disturbance to those nets at Staples Center during the West Region final. They also knew it didn't matter, because Florida State troubled the twine even less.

When shots aren't falling, Michigan knows it can rely on defense, discipline and tenacity. And by doing all the hard things, the Wolverines muscled their way to the Final Four.

Charles Matthews scored 17 points and Michigan earned its first Final Four berth since 2013 with a 58-54 victory over the Seminoles on Saturday night.

"I've never seen a team work so hard and be so connected on both ends of the floor," Michigan coach John Beilein said. "Even when things do not go right on the offensive end, they were exceptional on defense."

Wagner added 12 points as the Wolverines (32-7) earned their 13th consecutive victory by persevering through a defense-dominated second half despite shooting 4-for-22 from 3-point range.

After taking a 10-point lead on Duncan Robinson's 3-pointer with 2:26 to play, Michigan's lead dwindled to three before P.J. Savoy missed a potential tying 3-pointer for Florida State with 58 seconds left. The Wolverines held off a late charge from the Seminoles (23-12), who had already knocked off three higher-seeded opponents on their school's longest NCAA Tournament run since 1993.

"We take pride in our defense, so we believe in ourselves," said Michigan guard Muhammad-Ali Abdur-Rakhman, who scored nine points on 3-of-9 shooting. "We knew we had to get stops. We weren't making free throws. That comes with the game sometimes. We just had to continue to get stops."

Howard has 23 rebounds, Hornets hold off Mavs

DALLAS (AP)—It was as if Dwight Howard didn't even have a game off.

Howard had 23 rebounds and 18 points to cap an eventful four days and the Charlotte Hornets held off the Dallas Mavericks 102-98 on Saturday night for their third straight victory.

Howard had a career-high 30 rebounds and scored 32 points against Brooklyn on Wednesday night, then served a one-game suspension for his 16th technical foul of the season as Charlotte beat Memphis 140-79 on Thursday night.

That's 50 points and 53 rebounds in Howard's last two games.

"I was just trying to get as many rebounds as I can," he said. "Dominate the paint, set some screens for Kemba (Walker) and the rest of the guys to open up everything else in the paint."

Charlotte led by as many as 15 points, but Dallas cut it to 87-86 on two of Yogi Ferrell's 11 fourth-quarter points.

"He's getting better all the time," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said. "His level of confidence gets higher and higher."

The Mavericks had a chance to win after rebounding a miss by Charlotte's Jeremy Lamb, but Walker stole the ball from Dennis Smith Jr. and Dallas had to foul Marvin Williams with five seconds left. He made both free throws.

"At that particular time, I had to get on the floor and fight for the basketball," Walker said. "I was able to poke it loose."

Smith answered two versions of the same question the same way.

"I turned it over. I've got to be better in those situations." Dallas has lost five games in a row.

Walker scored 24 points, and Smith led the Mavericks with 21.

Sixers 120, Timberwolves 108

In Philadelphia, Ben Simmons had a triple-double, Joel Embiid dazzled while getting the better of Karl-Anthony Towns, and the Philadelphia 76ers inched closer to their first playoff berth in six years with a 120-108 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Simmons had 15 points, 12 rebounds and 13 assists for the 10th triple-double of his rookie season. Embiid scored 19 points, and had a left-handed block of Towns, a 3-pointer and a windmill dunk in the Sixers' 20-4 run to start the third quarter.

Dario Saric added 18 points as the Sixers (42-30) won their sixth straight game, ensured a winning season and moved within one win or Detroit loss from their first postseason appearance since 2012.

Andrew Wiggins scored 16 points, and Towns had 15 points and 11 rebounds, but shot just 3 of 15 from the field. Minnesota had won two in a row.

Pistons 117, Bulls 95

In Detroit, Anthony Tolliver scored 25 points, and Detroit made 13 3-pointers in the first half to rout Chicago.

The Pistons have won three of four, with the only loss in that span in overtime at Houston, but Detroit still trails Milwaukee by 5 1/2 games for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Andre Drummond had 15 points and 20 rebounds for Detroit. It was his 16th game this season with at least 20 rebounds and the 50th of his career.

Denzel Valentine led the Bulls with 18 points. They have lost five straight.

Magic 105, Suns 99

In Orlando, Aaron Gordon had 29 points and 11 rebounds in Orlando's victory over Phoenix.

Nikola Vucevic added 24 points and nine rebounds, and D.J. Augustin nearly had his first triple-double of the season with 15 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds. The Magic had lost three in a row.

Phoenix has lost 11 straight and 26 of 28. Josh Jackson led the Suns with 18 points, Alex Len had 15, and Tyler Ulis and former Magic guard Elfrid Payton added 14 apiece.

Rockets 114, Pelicans

In Houston, James Harden is certain the Houston Rockets won't let up in their last nine regular-season games despite holding a 4 1/2 game lead over Golden State for the top seed in the Western Conference.

"The edge is going to be there no matter what," he said. "We haven't done anything. We don't have time to relax."

Harden scored 27 points in three quarters and the Rockets routed the New Orleans Pelicans.

The NBA-leading Rockets improved to 59-14 to overtake the 1993-94 championship team for the most wins in franchise history

"It was just another win," Eric Gordon said. "We have high expectations for one another."

Lakers 103, Grizzlies 93

In Memphis, Kyle Kuzma wasn't interested in seeing Los Angeles extend its losing streak.

Kuzma scored 15 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter and had 10 rebounds, and the Los Angeles Lakers overcame a slow start to beat the Memphis Grizzlies.

"The fourth quarter, we just didn't want to lose," Kuzma said. "The first three quarters, I didn't really shoot the ball very well. So, I just tried to lock in."

Kuzma was part of an offensive burst that led to the Lakers outscoring Memphis 48-36 in the second half. It took until the third quarter for Los Angeles to recover from a quick Memphis start that contributed to a 17-point first-quarter lead for the Grizzlies. Memphis earned the advantage by scoring inside, 18 of its 28 first-quarter points coming in the paint.

Sablan enjoys trip down memory lane

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Jose Sablan was brought back down memory lane when he joined his son, Frank Sablan Sr., in watching 36 golfers compete in last Saturday's Saipan Vegas Invitational Tournament at the nine-hole Saipan Country Club.

SCC was the first golf course on the island, built in 1948—not 1962 as previously reported—through the efforts of then Navy Commander Gene Holbrook.

Sablan said that the course was only nine holes since that was the only available land back then—a few years after Saipan's liberation during World War II.

"Every month, the military had a tournament here. I started to caddie for them after school," Sablan, who was still in 8th grade then, told Saipan Tribune. "Schools on Saipan only have up to eighth grade. If you want to go to high school, you go off island."

It was through caddying up to military personnel that the many-time CNMI national golf team member learned to play golf.

"From school, I would go here. Back then it was known as Whispering Palms."

Sablan is considered one of the legends in the sport in the CNMI, as he has won more than 50 titles and has represented the Commonwealth in numerous Pacific Games, which was then known as South Pacific Games.

JON PEREZ
Jose Sablan, right, and his son Frank Sablan Sr. enjoy a light moment after watching the Saipan Vegas Invitational Tournament last Saturday at the Saipan Country Club.

"Little has changed. The layout is almost the same," said Sablan.

Meanwhile, Yoon Dae Young ruled the invitational tournament after shooting an even par 32. He also took the closest to the curved line honors at No. 3.

Closest to the pin winners were Tars Olopao (No. 1), Kang Kee Hyun (No. 2), Sueng Bang Kim (No. 5), Bong Kil Kim (No. 6), and Manny Mangarera (No. 9). Sueng Bang Kim also won the straightest drive at No. 4, while veteran Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho had the longest drive at No. 7, and Dan Ganacias earned the closest shot at No. 8.

Winners received SCC and Saipan Vegas gift certificates and other prizes from tournament sponsors.

FALCONS

From Page 28

while Joel Borja and Ethan Magofna went 2-for-3 each in the NSA Braves' slim victory over the Comets.

Sablan was almost unhittable at the plate before allowing an infield single to Comets shortstop Pettey Mendiola at the top of the third inning. He gave up an earned run to Benji Manglona also in the third when he walked the Comets right fielder.

Borja had an RBI double at the bottom of the first inning to bring in Angelo Igitol, who got on base on a Mendiola error. Borja's second RBI came in the fourth when Igitol scored his third run on the former's RBI single. Magofna, who singled in the fourth, also scored on a Wally Chong sacrifice bunt.

PALAU

From Page 28

Meanwhile, swimmers in the older age group either competed in the 2.6K or 5.2K distances and results of these races were unavailable at press time.

In related news, the 2018 Saipan Swim Club International Meet kicked off last Friday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool with swimmers from Guam, Saipan, Pohnpei, and Palau competing in 15 individual events and one relay.

The tournament started with the lung-busting 1,500m freestyle event with SSC's Kento Akimaru registering the fastest time among the 11 swimmers who took on the challenge of racing in the longest distance in the competition. The 17-year-old Akimaru completed the 30-lap swim in 18:09.21.

Palau's Jericho Maido had the second best time at 18:15.98. He won the boys 13 to 14 race, beating SSC's Lennosuke Suzuki (19:30.37), and Tsunami Saipan's Juhn Tenorio (19:35.32) and Nelson Batallones (20:01.29).

In the boys 11 to 12, Lennosuke's brother Jinnosuke clocked in at 18:22 (third best overall) and topped fellow SSC swimmer Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero (20:37.76) and Tsunami Saipan's Hans Xu (21:11:20).

In the girls division, Tsunami Guam's Samantha Hon was the fastest at 18:49.51, followed by Palau's Osisang Chilton (20:46.46) and Tsunami Saipan's Aika Watanabe (21:59.58).

Results in the other events last Friday along with the Saturday races will be reported once organizers made them official.

670 Sonics search for elusive win in PH caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 670 Sonics were off to a rough start in the 3rd Dreamers International Basketball Tournament as their U16 and U18 teams dropped their first two matches.

The 670 Sonics debuted against Guam's George Washington High School in the U18 division game last Friday at the Batis Aramin Hotel & Resort in Quezon, Philippines with the latter prevailing in a close duel, 76-70.

The George Washington-670 Sonics tiff was pretty even in the first half with the Saipan-based team behind by only a hair, 27-28. The Omar Ajoste-coached 670 Sonics still kept George Washington within striking distance after the third period, as the Geckos were up by only 4, 51-47. Then in the fourth quarter, the 670 Sonics hung in there before Edmond Palacios and Dylan Trusso delivered keys baskets to lift George Washington to the 6-point win.

Palacios drilled 9 of his 14 points in the fourth canto, while Trusso had 6 of his team-high 21 in that period. Jude Tengco paced the Sonics with his 13 points, but he was held to one free throw in the fourth frame. Paulo Rafols added 11 markers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Players and coaches of the 670 Sonics pose for a photo before their game in the Philippines last Friday.

Up next for the 670 Sonics was Mamba, which took a 78-68 victory after Ajoste's wards had a fourth-quarter meltdown.

Behind by only a deuce entering the fourth canto, 58-60, the 670 Sonics was held to 10 points in the final frame—their lowest in a quarter. Kenji Abobo was the only 670 Sonics to score more than one field goal in the deciding canto en route to a 13-point performance. The 670 Sonics gunner also had six steals and seven rebounds. John Malasarte was the other double-figure scorer for the 670 Sonics with 10, but was limited to 2 markers in the final period.

Meanwhile, in the U16 division, the 670 Sonics bowed to Guam's Okkodo High School last Thursday, 55-86, and fell to PYD Red last Friday, 112-65.

PYD Red toyed around with the defense of the 670 Sonics right in the first quarter to build a commanding 42-14 advantage. PYD sustained its good shooting in the second canto, adding 36 more points, while the 670 Sonics failed to counter.

Khristian Itaas led the 670 Sonics' losing effort after scoring 22 points.

In their debut game last Thursday, the 670 Sonics also faced an early deficit and never recovered. Okkodo established a 25-11 advantage after the first quarter and kept its safe distance in the next three periods. Again, Itaas paced the 670 Sonics with his 21 markers, while five Okkodo players finished in twin digits for its easy win.

LAW

From Page 28

Law, who had an almost 10-minute lead against the deposed champion, said that the course and Saturday's windy conditions were the biggest challenges he faced in his first attempt to complete a Half Ironman distance event.

"From the start of the race, in the swim leg, it was really a huge challenge for me. The current was strong and it was hard to see the first tank," Law told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview a few minutes after crossing the finish line and enjoying the island's fresh coconut juice.

"The bike, though most of it is flat road, was also not that easy because it was windy. Coming back to the run transition was easier, since there's no more head wind. The run was pretty good. It was not that hot and at times it was cloudy, so that helped not only me but also the other competitors," added the 24-year-old who competed for the first time on Saipan.

Law's 4:23:20 time was faster than the one recorded by Kwang Hoon Lee of South Korea (4:46:19) in last year's Ironman 70.3 Saipan, which has the same distance.

Dorovskikh, last year's Tagaman champion when the event was held in 51.50, came in at 4:31:40, while South Korean Gyu Seo Choi finished third with a time of 4:43:38.

Iijima, on the other hand, trailed A Reum Jo and International Triathlon Union world ranked Dan Bi Hong after the swim, but caught up with the South Korean duo in the bike and further distanced herself in the run for a combined time of 4:34:40.

Iijima, who topped last year's 51.50, was third overall behind Law and Dorovskikh and crossed the finish line just two minutes after the latter cut the tape.

"The race went well and I am very happy with my results. I have been training hard for this race for the past two months. I don't know what would be my next race, but I'm sure I will be training harder to get better," said the 25-year-old former Guam swimmer.

Hong, 321st in the ITU world rankings and was one of the four triathletes in the women's field with international experience, came in almost 18 minutes behind Iijima with a time of 4:51:10, while Jo finished third after checking in at 4:53:39.

While Iijima and Law celebrated their wins last weekend, Japan's Yu Shinozaki was treated at the Commonwealth Health Center after a car-bike collision near Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

Unofficial report that reached *Saipan Tribune* stated that Shinozaki, who was at that time leading the race, was heading toward Banzai Cliff after making the turn at Mobil Koblerville when the eight-time Niijima Triathlon champ was hit by a passing car. He was rushed to the hospital and received several stitches on his right leg, while there were no reports about the driver involved in the accident. *Saipan Tribune* tried to get additional information from the Department of Public Safety, but DPS public information officer Jackie Rae Shepard has yet to respond to an email at press time.

Tsunami Saipan at Tokyo Sprint 2018

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan swimmers and officials pose for a group photo before the competition in the Tokyo Junior Sprint 2018 held at the Tatsumi International Swimming Arena in Japan early this month.

Kouki Watanabe prepares to dive.

Ashley Dangol is shown on the TV screen receiving her fourth place award in the 50m butterfly event.

Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura (blue shirt) meets with his swimmers a day before the competition kicks off.

Asaka Litulumar waits for the start of her preliminary race.

Isaiah Aleksenko, right, poses with Olympian coach Susumu Oomura.

Nanaka Watanabe adjusts her cap while waiting for the start of the race.

Thousands of spectators watch the races at the Tatsumi International Swimming Arena.

Thomas enters semifinals, closes in on No. 1

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Loyola's shocking run reaches Final Four

PAGE 25

Law rules Tagaman; Iijima wins

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Tim Law ruled the men's division for a winning Half Ironman debut, while Manami Iijima took the women's crown in last Saturday's 29th Tagaman 70.3 Triathlon.

The Hong Kong bet foiled Russian Aleksandr Dorovskikh's bid for back-to-back titles as Law completed the lung-busting course in an unofficial time of 4:23:20. The Half Ironman race had a 1.9-kilometer swim from the waters off Kanoa Resort to Kilili Beach, a 90K bike (two loops from Kilili Beach to as far as Banzai Cliff up north and Koblerville down south), 21K run (two loops from Kilili Beach to Chamolinian Village in Garapan and back).

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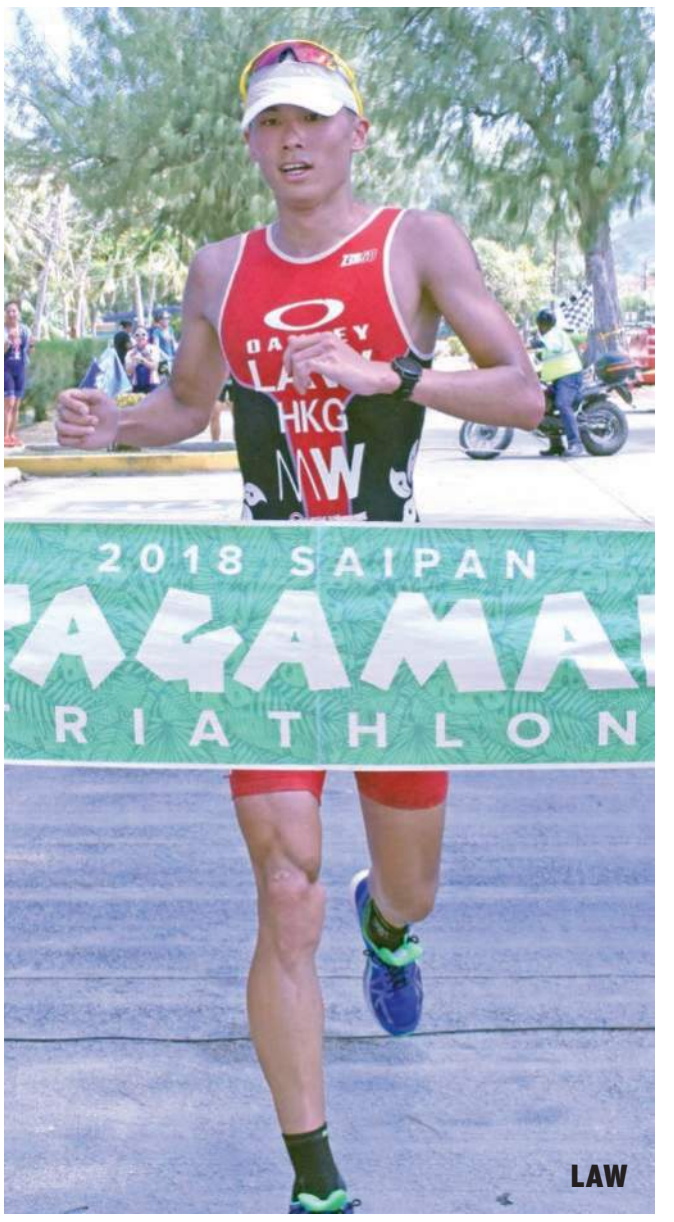
IIJIMA



LAW

Palau swimmers, Miller make Top 3

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Two Palau swimmers and Saipan Swim Club's Michael Miller finished in the Top 3 in the shortest course in yesterday's 39th Annual SSC Ocean Swim held in the waters near Naked Fish in Susupe.

Charlie Gibbons completed the 600m swim in 13:42 to earn the first place honors, while Miller came in at second after clocking in at 14:11. Gibbon's teammate Kazuumi Nestor rounded out the Top 3 after registering 15:18. Three other swimmers raced in the U8's 600m course.

In the 1K course, which drew 16 swimmers, Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Aasish Dangol led the way after crossing the finish line in 15:46.

Joining Dangol in the boys 9 to 10's Top 3 were his teammate Kouki Watanabe and Palau's Jion Hosei, who submitted 16:18 and 19:47, respectively.

In the girls 9 to 10, Tsunami Saipan's Marian Batallones was the first finisher in her division and third overall after checking in at the 17:14 mark. SSC's Kaithlyn Chavez placed second after recording 18:54, while Guam and Manukai Athletic Club's Sophie Tarr made it to the podium after posting 20:48.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan Swim Club's Michael Miller rushes out of the water to complete the 600m swim during yesterday's 39th Annual SSC Ocean Swim held in the waters near Naked Fish in Susupe.

Falcons soar to fifth victory

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Falcons secured their fifth win after an 8-5 decision over Bank of Saipan in last Friday's game in the Majors division of the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Christian Gonzales pitched three innings of the one-hit game, struck out seven, and walked one. He was tagged with one earned run when Jesus Tydingco, who singled, stole home.

Achilles Evangelista tossed 1 1/3 innings in start, surrendering three hits on three runs, all earned, with two strikeouts and no walk.

Andre Iguel pitched the entire second, relieving Evangelista when Jake Aguon was about to bat. He retired Aguon and Antonio Cabrera to sandwich an Ezra Ada walk, who later scored on a Jesse Stole RBI triple. Iguel, however, bounced back when he caught Stole—off a throw by catcher Miko Tomokane—trying to steal home to end the second.

Chris Pangelinan had a two-RBI double at the bottom of the third and scored one run when he was walked in the second and crossed home plate on an RBI single by Vinnie Sablan.

Braves 7, Comets 6

Jylon Sablan struck out 12,

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JON PEREZ
The Falcons' Christian Gonzales prepares to throw a pitch against a Bank of Saipan batter during their game in the Majors division of the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball last Friday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.